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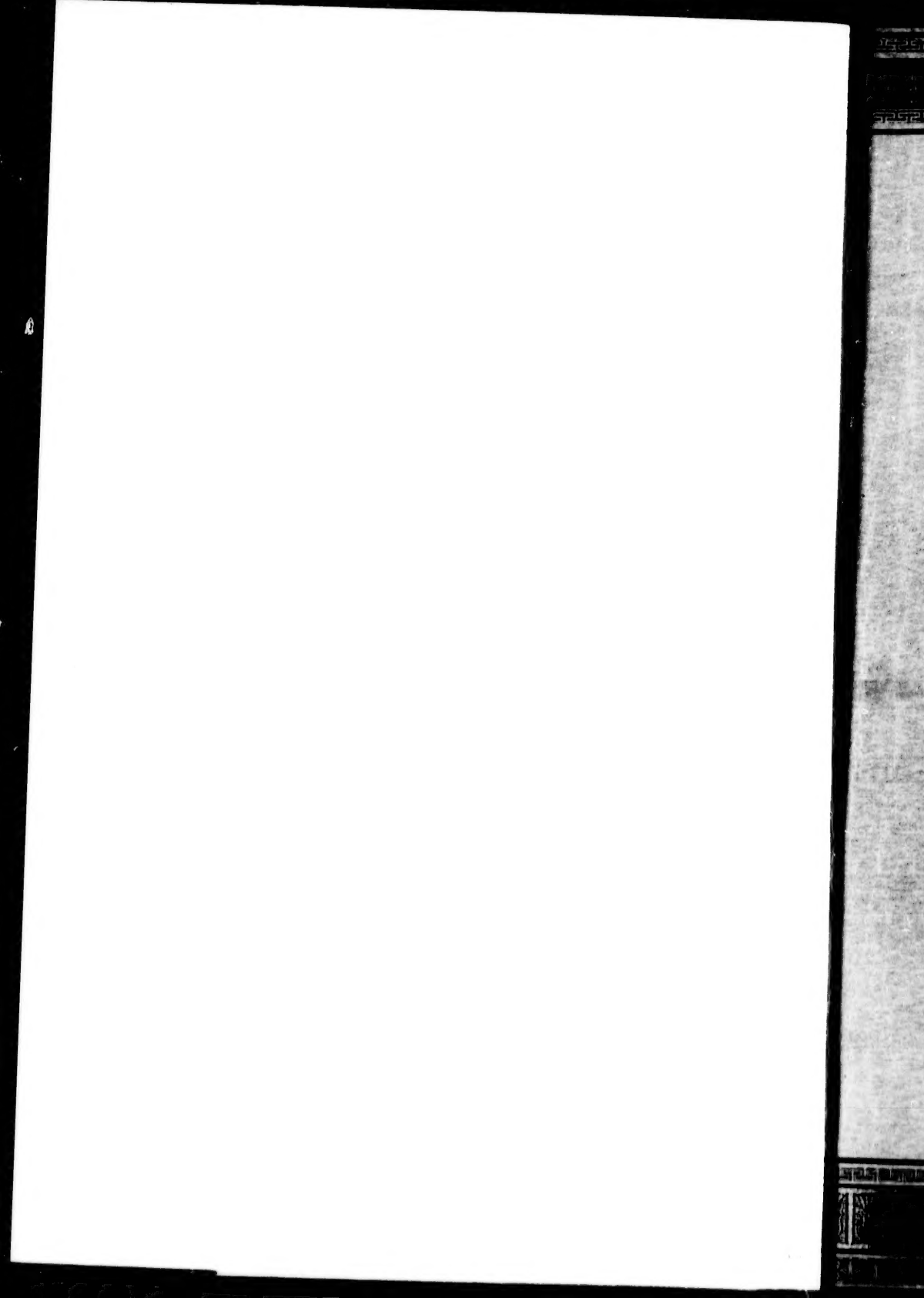
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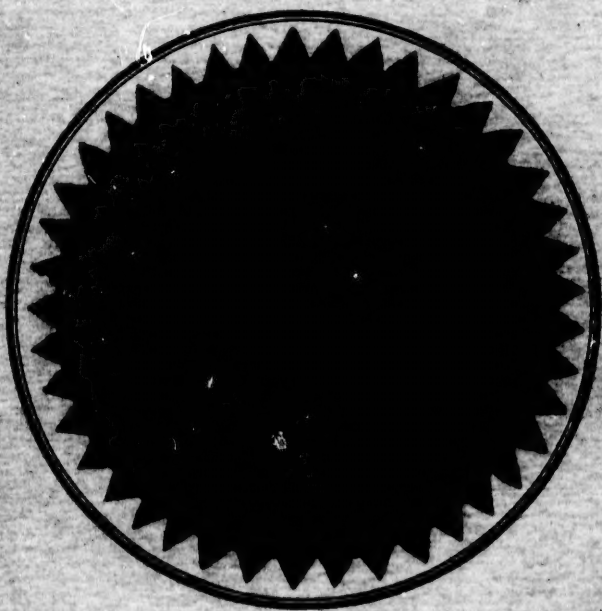
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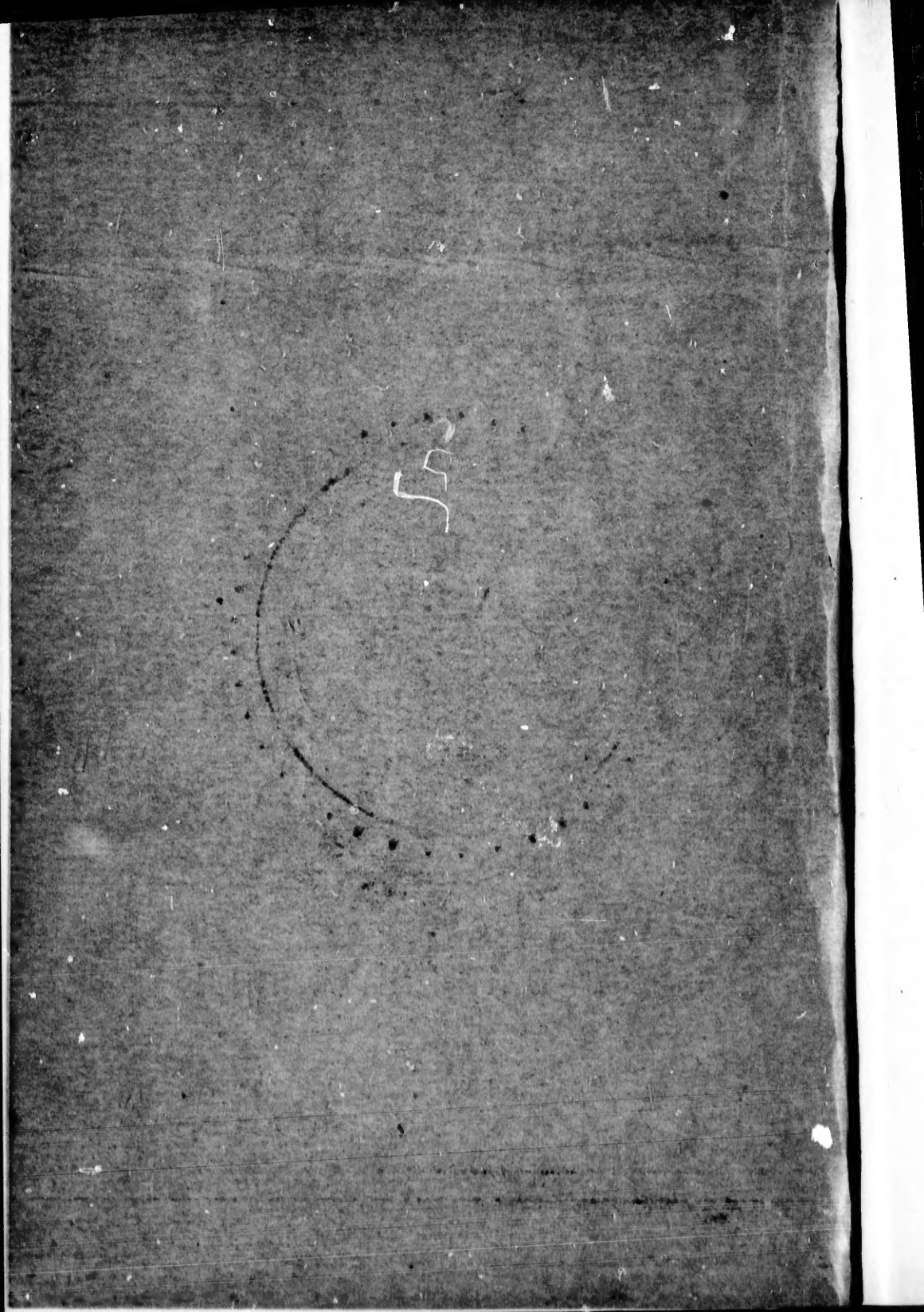
PROCEEDINGS

OF



The Twenty-fifth Annual

1896.



fraternal correspondence
from M. Hofer P.G.M.
PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

M.: W.: GRAND LODGE

OF

Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons

OF

BRITISH COLUMBIA.



SPECIAL COMMUNICATIONS

Held at Chilliwack, B. C., on Thursday, November 28th,
1895, and at Wellington, B. C., on Saturday, Dec
ember, 14th, 1895.

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL COMMUNICATION

Held at Nanaimo, B. C., commencing on Thursday, the 18th
day of June, 1896, A. L. 5896.



VICTORIA, B. C.

EUGENE P. MILLER, PRINTER AND BOOKBINDER,
77 JOHNSON STREET.

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Grand Lodge of British Columbia.

I, **WALTER J. QUINLAN**, Grand Secretary of the M. W. Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Province of British Columbia, Dominion of Canada, do hereby certify that the following pages contain a true and faithful transcript of the Proceedings of the Grand Lodge at the Special Communication held at Chilliwack, B. C., on Thursday, November 28th, 1895, for the purpose of dedicating the Masonic Hall of Ionic Lodge, No. 19, B. C. R.; the Special Communication held on Thursday, December 14th, 1895, for the purpose of laying the corner stone of the Methodist Church at Wellington, B. C., and the 25th Annual Communication commenced in the City of Nanaimo, on Thursday, June 18th, 1896, and terminated on Friday, June 19th, 1896, and of returns of Subordinate Lodges, together with other matters authorized to be published.



In Testimony whereof, I have hereunto appended my official signature, and have affixed the Seal of the Grand Lodge of the Province of British Columbia, at the Office of the Grand Secretary, in the Masonic Temple, City of Victoria, this 1st day of July, in the year of light, five thousand eight hundred and ninety-six.

W. J. Quinlan
Grand Secy

SPECIAL COMMUNICATION

— OF THE —

Grand Lodge of British Columbia

HELD AT

THE VILLAGE OF CHILLIWHACK

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28TH, 1895.

PRESENT:

M. W. Bro. Lacey R. Johnson.....	Grand Master
V. W. Bro. John A. Logan	acting Deputy Grand Master
W. Bro. T. J. Armstrong.....	acting Senior Grand Warden
R. W. Bro. A. E. Lees.....	Junior Grand Warden
W. Bro. J. Campbell.....	acting Grand Treasurer
“ C. Nelson.....	acting Grand Secretary
“ E. Bond.....	acting Senior Grand Deacon
“ A. McKeroher.....	acting Junior Grand Deacon
Bro. T. C. Atkinson.....	acting Grand Supt. of Works
W. Bro. J. H. Shirley.....	acting Grand Dir. of Cer.
Bro. J. Solater.....	acting Grand Marshal
“ H. McMillan.....	acting Grand Sword Bearer
“ J. Laidlaw.....	acting Grand Organist
“ A. M. Nelson.....	acting Grand Pursuivant
“ W. F. Ferris.....	acting Grand Tyler

Also the brethren of Ionic Lodge, No. 19, and several visitors.

The Grand Lodge was opened in AMPLE FORM at 2:30 p. m. The M. W. Grand Master announced that the object of the present communication was the Dedication of the Masonic Hall of Ionic Lodge, No. 19, Chilliwack.

The acting Grand Secretary read the summons by virtue of which the communication was convened.

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A deputation from Ionic Lodge No. 19, was then admitted and presented a request that the M. W. Grand Master dedicate and consecrate their new hall.

The request being acceded to, the Grand Master addressed Grand Lodge, showing the reason and the antiquity of the rites of dedication and consecration of buildings for special purposes. A procession was then formed, and the ceremony performed according to due and ancient custom.

The Grand Master afterward congratulated the Worshipful Master, Officers and Members of Ionic Lodge on being able to provide and furnish a hall so suitable for their requirements, and concluded by giving a short address on Masonry in general.

After thanks to the officers and members of Grand Lodge for their attendance, and prayer by the V. W. Grand Chaplain, Grand Lodge was closed in AMPLE FORM at 8:55 p. m.

C. NELSON,
Acting Grand Secretary.



SPECIAL COMMUNICATION

—OF THE—

M. W. Grand Lodge, A. F. & A. M.,

HELD AT

THE TOWN OF WELLINGTON,

SATURDAY, 14TH DECEMBER, 1895.

PRESENT:

Lacey R. Johnson	M. W. Grand Master
W. H. S. Perkins.	acting R. W. Deputy Grand Master
Rev. E. D. McLaren.	R. W. Senior Grand Warden
A. E. Lees	R. W. Junior Grand Warden
Rev. R. R. Maitland	acting V. W. Grand Chaplain
Jno. W. Coburn.	acting V. W. Grand Treasurer
W. J. Quinlan.	V. W. Grand Secretary
D. Cartmel.	W. Senior Grand Deacon
T. J. Armstrong.	acting W. Junior Grand Deacon
J. Stevenson.	acting W. Grand Supt. of Works
Chas. Nelson.	acting W. Grand Dir. of Ceremonies
Wm. Stewart.	acting W. Grand Marshal
A. J. McMurtrie.	acting W. Grand Sword Bearer
John McCrae.	acting W. Standard Bearer
H. A. Dillon.	acting W. Grand Pursuivant
John Vance.	acting V. W. Grand Tyler

together with Past Masters and members of Ashlar, No. 3, Mount Hermon, No. 7, Cascade, No. 12, St. John's, No. 21, Acacia, No. 22, and others.

The M. W. Grand Master opened Grand Lodge in AMPLE FORM at 3 p. m., after which all Master Masons in good standing were invited to seats in Grand Lodge, and requested to assist in the ceremony of laying the cornerstone of the Methodist Church, Wellington.

The V. W. Grand Secretary read the summons by virtue of which the special communication was convened.

The M. W. Grand Master then ordered the Grand Marshal to form a procession, and Grand Lodge, headed by the Wellington Cornet Band, then marched to the site of the structure.

The ceremony of Laying the Corner-stone was then proceeded with; the acting Grand Chaplain, on behalf of the church officials, presenting to the M. W. Grand Master a beautiful and suitably inscribed silver trowel, with which to perform the ceremony.

Brief addresses were given by the M. W. Grand Master and others, after which the procession re-formed and returned to the Lodge room, where, after benediction by the V. W. Grand Chaplain, Grand Lodge was closed in AMPLE FORM, and so proclaimed.

W. J. Quinlan
Grand Secretary

The Grand Lodge officers and visitors were entertained by the ladies of Wellington in such a hospitable manner, as earned for them the thanks of all who were present.

W. J. Q.

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PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
GRAND LODGE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
OF
Ancient Free and Accepted Masons.

ANNUAL COMMUNICATION.

The Twenty-fifth Annual Communication of the M. W. Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the Province of British Columbia was opened in the Masonic Temple, City of Nanaimo, B. C., on Thursday, the 18th day of June, 1896, A. L. 5896, at the hour of eleven o'clock a. m.

ROLL CALL.

Upon calling the roll the following were found present:

GRAND OFFICERS.

Lacey R. Johnson.....	M. W. Grand Master.
Alex. Charleson.....	R. W. Deputy Grand Master.
Rev. E. D. McLaren.....	R. W. Senior Grand Warden.
A. E. Lees.....	R. W. Junior Grand Warden.
Rev. John A. Logan.....	V. W. Grand Chaplain.
W. J. Quinlan.....	V. W. Grand Secretary.
Alex. McKercher.....	W. Grand Junior Deacon.
R. E. Walker.....	" Supt. of Works.
A. W. Black.....	" Marshall.
T. L. Downes.....	" Standard Bearer.
W. H. S. Perkins.....	" Pursuivant.
David Stephenson.....	W. Grand Steward.
E. Hosker.....	W. Grand Tyler.

DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS.

Right Worshipful Bro. Peter McNaughton.....No. 2 District.
 " " John W. Coburn.....No. 5 District.

PAST GRAND OFFICERS.

M. W. Bro. A. McKeownPast Grand Master.
 M. W. Bro. M. WolfePast Grand Master.
 M. W. Bro. W. Downie.....Past Grand Master.
 M. W. Bro. R. B. McMicking.....Past Grand Master.
 Right W. Bro. Eli Harrison, Jr.....Past Junior Grand Warden.
 Right W. Bro. Wm. StewartPast Junior Grand Warden.

With representatives (or their proxies) from eighteen Chartered Lodges and thirty duly qualified Past Masters, together with the Representatives of the following Grand Lodges :—

Colorado,	Maine,	New Brunswick,	Tasmania,
England,	Manitoba,	New Hampshire,	South Australia,
Ireland,	Missouri,	Peru,	South Carolina.

The M. W. Grand Master appointed the following members of Grand Lodge to fill offices *pro tempore* :—

W. Bro. W. A. DeWolfe Smith	as Senior Grand Deacon.
W. Bro. J. B. Johnson	as Grand Director of Ceremonies.
W. Bro. W. D. Brydone Jack	 as Grand Sword Bearer.
W. Bro. S. N. Jarrett	as Grand Organist.
W. Bro. L. A. Lewis	as {
W. Bro. Charles Nelson	} Grand Stewards.

Also the following in place of absentees on Standing Committees :—

Constitution—

M. W. Bro. A. McKeown, R. W. Bro. Eli Harrison, Jr., and W. Bro. F. McB. Young.

Finance—

R. W. Bro. P. McNaughton.

Jurisprudence—

R. W. Bro. Wm. Stewart, W. Bro. W. DeWolfe Smith and Bro. H. N. Rich.

Charity—

W. Bros. W. A. Richardson, S. J. Tunstall, and L. T. Davies.

The following Special Committee appointed on

CREDENTIALS :

The V. W. Bro. Grand Secretary.

The R. W. Bro. Deputy Grand Master.

W. Bro. S. N. Jarrett.

The Grand Lodge was called off to allow the Committee on Credentials to prepare a report.

—:o:—

IN GRAND LODGE.

FIRST DAY—AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Committee on Credentials presented their report.

Resolved,—That from the fact that additional representatives and members are expected on afternoon boat from the Mainland the report be received, tabled and brought up under the head of "Reports of Committees" to permit of expected addition being made.

ADMITTED TO GRAND LODGE.

The Grand Master extended an invitation to all Master Masons in good standing to seats in Grand Lodge during this Communication.

Visitors having been admitted, the Grand Pursuivant announced that Bro. Davison, Mayor of Nanaimo, would be pleased to present an address of welcome to Grand Lodge on this occasion of their visit to the city.

The M. W. Grand Master requested M. W. Bro. Wolfe to conduct, and detailed the Grand Sword and Standard Bearers to escort, the distinguished visitor into the Grand Lodge. His Worship then read the following address :—

CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF NANAIMO.

NANAIMO, B. C., June 18th, 1896.

*To the Most Worshipful, the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted
Masons of the Province of British Columbia:—*

Permit me, on behalf of the citizens of Nanaimo, to extend to you a very cordial welcome to our City.

I have been looking forward for some time with considerable pleasure to this convention, and I now feel highly honored in presenting to your distinguished body the hearty greetings of my fellow-citizens.

I hope that nothing will occur to mar either your plans or the anticipated enjoyment of your visit. I also trust that the fraternal feelings whereby your Annual Communications have ever been characterized will not be wanting on this occasion, and that the proceedings of the present session will terminate in a manner entirely satisfactory to all.

It also gives me much pleasure, gentlemen, to extend to you the freedom of the "Black Diamond City," and while you honor it with your presence, I shall consider it not only a duty, but a pleasure to render any assistance that may conduce to the success of your present convention.

J. H. DAVISON,
Mayor.

The M. W. Grand Master suitably acknowledged the courtesy extended, and on behalf of Grand Lodge expressed the pleasure Grand Lodge ever had in visiting the beautiful city of Nanaimo.

Resolved,—That the address be accepted with thanks, and printed in the proceedings.

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS.

The Grand Secretary read the minutes of the Special Communications held, which on motion were adopted, and ordered printed.

R. W. Bro. Eli Harrison, Jr., called attention to the fact that he declined to act as counsel for W. Bro. T. R. Mitchell, his position in civil life precluding him from so acting, and requested that an addendum stating such be sent with the proceedings of this year.

Resolved,—That the copy of the proceedings of the last Annual Communication be taken as read, and adopted

as already printed, and that an addendum be issued with the report of this year noting the change requested by R. W. Bro. Harrison.

Letters of regret at inability to be present were read from M. W. Bro. Harrison, Sr., and W. Bro. Cartmel, Senior Grand Deacon. Ordered to be filed.

M. W. Bro. M. Wolfe, on behalf of the local Lodges, invited Grand Lodge and all visitors to a supper, to be given at the Opera House on Friday evening, and requested that all the names be handed in to W. Bro. Perkins, secretary of Doric Lodge.

GRAND MASTER'S ADDRESS.

Brethren of the Grand Lodge:—

Allow me to open my address with a hearty greeting on this our Twenty-fifth Annual Communication, the Silver Wedding, as it were, of the various Lodges that a quarter of a century ago united to form the Sovereign Grand Lodge of British Columbia.

Perhaps it will not be altogether out of place at this time, if, for the information of some of the later members of the Grand Lodge, I state that it was on the 21st of October, 1871, when the children of the Grand Lodges of England and Scotland who had hitherto worked in British Columbia under a District Grand Master of England and a Provincial Grand Master of Scotland, were united in the bonds of wedlock, and were henceforth known as the Grand Lodge of British Columbia, its first Grand Master, Israel Wood Powell, and the other Grand Officers being installed by R. W. Robert Burnaby, District Grand Master of England.

The new Grand Lodge was organized by the representatives of the following eight Lodges:—Victoria, Nanaimo, and British Columbia, of the United G. L. of England; and Vancouver, Cariboo, Caledonia, Mount Hermon and Quadra, of the registry of Scotland. The District Grand Master of England and the Provincial Grand Master of Scotland co-operated in the formation of the new Grand Lodge.

While naturally looking forward with Hope and Good Wishes for the future, I think we may, on an occasion like the present, look back with genuine feelings of thankfulness and gratitude to the Supreme Grand Master, for many mercies and blessings which we, as a Grand Lodge, and as individuals, have received at His hands during the year just closing. Personally, I feel specially called upon to record my thankfulness to the beneficent author and giver of all good things for granting me the necessary health and strength to perform the multi-

tudinous duties which, as your Chief Executive Officer, have devolved upon me. At times, brethren, I have felt His presence and assistance when I sorely needed it, turning a serious responsibility into a pleasant task, and while I feel and acknowledge my many shortcomings and weaknesses, I hope and trust that during my year of office as your Grand Master, I may have been the means of helping some of our brethren to realize the higher meanings and teachings of Masonry, and of inspiring in the hearts of many, an ambition so to perform their allotted tasks, and their obligations to the Craft and each other, that our beloved Institution shall continue to hold that proud and honourable position in which it has been handed down to us by our brethren of past ages.

Every member of the Grand Lodge, I am sure, hopes to see Masonry continue in this exalted position, but are we, brethren, individually carrying our share of the responsibility, doing our share of the work, and playing our part faithfully towards the attainment of this end? We teach our brethren in the subordinate Lodges that Masonry is a beautiful *system of Morality*, not a *theory*; that it is something which should shine forth in the everyday life and actions of each individual Mason, something which we should not be content to simply teach or profess, but to live.

I have been, sometimes, and especially during the last two or three years, obliged to think that many of us look upon Masonry as a mere rendering of a perfect and beautiful ritual within our Lodge Rooms, and that as long as we are able to see that ritual performed to our satisfaction,—and mind you, we are willing to spend any amount of time and trouble to that end,—we have done our duty as Masons. Brethren, this is not enough, beautiful and instructive as our ritual may be, it is simply the shadow, the substance is not in it, or as an eminent Past Grand Master has so beautifully put it,—“The ritualistic teachings, however beautiful and instructive they may be, are simply the Key, put into the Mason’s hand, by which he may unlock the great Treasure House, where are garnered the stores of Masonic Truth.”

This truth must be studied and the lessons drawn from it must be practised in the everyday life of the Mason, if the outside world is to be made to believe that Masonry is what we claim it to be. The world is not in possession of our secret signs and words, and therefore only able to judge of Masonry as they see it exemplified in the Masons’ lives. How often, brethren, do they have to judge it as anything but a teacher of morality and virtue, temperance and brotherly love! Too often, I am afraid, we put off our Masonry with our regalia, and leave it locked up in the Lodge Room and forget directly we are outside, what we acknowledged only a few minutes before, viz:—That the All Seeing Eye of the Most High ever beholds us.

These grand living Truths, brethren, are the bulwarks of our Institution, which have for ages and ages shielded it from the attacks of the

cowan and the profane. Let us see to it, therefore, that our bulwarks are kept solid and unbroken, with no breach through which an enemy can throw a dart of reproach.

During my tours throughout the jurisdiction, you may have perhaps thought that I have dwelt too much on this theme, but, brethren, I have felt it necessary. What would you think of the captain of a magnificent ship, laden not only with a very valuable cargo, but also with a long list of passengers, if he knew that there was a dangerous leak in her bottom, which if not stopped or counteracted would soon sink her, but instead of starting men to work at the pumps and doing something to stop the leak, he went on, calmly talking to the passengers and crew, about the splendid vessel in which they were travelling? We are sailing in a beautiful ship, well rigged and appointed; equipped with machinery powerful enough to keep her moving ahead over the ocean of time, but the officers must be well up in their work, and not neglect a single detail, each member of the crew must see that his individual duties are done, and done thoroughly, the Committees, or Engineers must see that every part of the machinery is in perfect working order, for much of it consists of very delicate pieces, the smallest and apparently the most insignificant of which, if it becomes deranged, may seriously affect the main mechanism. Then again, our ship must at times sail under dark and stormy skies when the entered apprentices will need to be closely watched, that they keep the binnacle lights trimmed and burning, so as to enable those at the helm to see the swaying compass-card, and steer clear of rocks and shoals.

This is the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of our formation as a Sovereign Grand Lodge. A quarter of a century has gone with its achievements and successes, with its weaknesses and failures, and it would be difficult to select a more fitting time to make, so to speak, a fresh start in our Masonic life. You are here, brethren, as the officers and representatives of almost every Lodge in our jurisdiction, and I would ask you, one and all, to join with me to-day, in solemnly and firmly resolving, that each in his own Lodge will, from this day forward, assisted by the Great Architect of the Universe, try to live more truly than ever before, as a Mason in the highest and broadest sense of the word; and that we will do our utmost to carry out, in every detail, the Divine commands which He has laid down for our guidance in the Volume of the Sacred Law, and not only do that, but that we will point out and explain those laws to the younger members of the Institution, and assist them by the daily example of our life and practice. When we do this, we need have no fear of the ultimate destiny of our beloved Craft.

During the past year, I am pleased to say, nothing has happened to mar, in any way, the friendly and fraternal relations existing between this Grand Lodge and Sister Grand Lodges. I am also very glad to be able to report that throughout the length and breadth of our own jurisdiction peace and harmony prevail, and if on the whole we do not show

the same growth numerically which has marked some years in the past, I am led to hope, from what I have seen and heard while in different parts of the Province, that we are growing in those virtues which tend to make our Craft honored and respected.

The Angel of Death has paid us several visits since we last met in Annual Communication, summoning here and there a loved brother to the Grand Lodge above, there to receive at the hands of the Supreme Grand Master the fruits of his labors here below. We can only hope that our loss will prove their gain. But recently death came very suddenly and unexpectedly to many in our midst, and it should be a solemn warning to us, for we know not the day nor the hour when our own summons may come.

"Time is earnest passing by,
Death is earnest drawing nigh."

OFFICIAL VISITATIONS.

1895.

September 4th. Visited Pacific Lodge, No. 16. Saw degrees conferred and had the somewhat unique experience of being requested to present three Past Master's Jewels in the one Lodge in one evening. The fact that this was possible shows at any rate that the finances of Pacific Lodge are improving. It also shows that when prosperity comes the brethren do not forget those who struggled hard to keep the Lodge together.

October 26th. Hearing that steps were being taken to form a new Lodge at Rossland, and being in the neighbourhood, I went down to investigate and to see as many of the brethren as possible. I found several old and trusty friends there, and the matter in good hands.

October 28th. Visited Nelson but found my visit badly timed as many of the brethren were out of town. However, I met several of the officers and brethren, and talked over Lodge matters in an informal way.

October 30th. Visited Kaslo, No. 25, for the first time since they received their Charter, and spent a very pleasant and I trust profitable evening.

November 12th. Visited Kamloops, No. 10, and in the absence of the W. M. through sickness, conferred the First Degree on a candidate.

November 28th. Visited Ionic, No. 19. Dedicated and consecrated the New Masonic Hall according to ancient custom and ceremony.

November 30th. Visited Acacia, No. 22. General business and Degree work.

December 18th. Visited Ashlar, No. 3. Exemplification of the work.

December 17th. Visited St. John's, No. 21, accompanied by the officers and members of Acacia Lodge who worked the First and Second Degrees, after which had the pleasure of witnessing the exemplification of the Third Degree in St. John's unique and masterly style.

December 27th. Visited Mount Hermon, No. 7, and Cascade, No. 12. Installed the officers of both Lodges and on behalf of the members presented the retiring W. M. in each case with a Past Master's Jewel.

December 28th. Visited Acacia, No. 22, and installed their officers.

1896.

January 2nd. Visited Victoria-Columbia, No. 1, and installed the officers.

April 17th. Visited Mountain, No. 11, and attended Masonic Ball.

May 4th. Visited Nelson, No. 23. Exemplification of work.

May 5th. Accompanied by several brethren from Vancouver, Nelson, and Spokane, visited Kaslo, No. 25, spending a very pleasant and I hope very profitable evening. After breaking up about 2 a. m. I again got into harness and with the assistance of four other Past Masters conferred the Past Master's Degree upon W. Bro. Turner of Nelson.

May 13th. Visited King Solomon, No. 17, and witnessed the conferring of the Second Degree.

May 18th. Together with R. W. the D. G. M. and G. S. W. and G. J. W. visited Cascade, No. 12. We were welcomed by W. Bro. Tisdale, whom I had the pleasure of initiating into the mysteries of Masonry, while I was W. M. of Cascade. On this occasion several brethren from King Solomon and Union Lodges also paid Cascade a fraternal visit. A very enjoyable evening was the result.

June 3rd. I had the pleasure of visiting Union, No. 9, and witnessed an exemplification of the work.

June 8th. Again had the pleasure of visiting Mountain, No. 11, of which Lodge I was a Charter Member and for some time an officer.

June 9th. Accompanied by W. Bro. Newman of Mountain Lodge, visited Kootenay, No. 15, and witnessed the exemplification of the First and Second Degrees.

June 13th. Accompanied by the officers and members of Acacia, No. 22, and several members of Mount Hermon and Cascade, I went to Eburne and laid the Corner Stone of St. Alban's Episcopal Church.

I am very sorry that circumstances over which I had no control hindered me from carrying out my original intention of visiting every Lodge in the jurisdiction, and sincerely hope the brethren of Spallumcheen, Miriam, Doric, Cumberland, Hiram and Caribou, will not for a moment think that they have been forgotten, for I feel the disappointment as much as they do. Everywhere not only have I been right loyally and royally received and welcomed, but the other Grand Lodge Representatives who have accompanied me, enjoyed the same generous treatment.

NEW LODGES.

On December 5th upon receiving a very favourable report from R. W. Bro. Coburn, D. D. G. M. with a recommendation from the brethren at Comox, I approved a petition from brethren residing at Union, and issued them a Dispensation, to form a Lodge there. Their record will also be laid before you by the V. W. Grand Secretary.

On March 4th, 1896, on a report by V. W. Bro. Quinlan who stayed some time in Rossland together with my own investigation, and the recommendation of the Nelson Lodge, I granted a Dispensation to the brethren in Rossland to form a new Lodge there to be known as Corinthian. The report of the work done by these brethren will be laid before you by the Grand Secretary, together with a report I have received from R. W. Bro. R. B. Kelly, who is at present residing in Rossland and who was commissioned by me to visit the Lodge and report.

SPECIAL COMMUNICATIONS.

November 28th, 1895. An emergent communication was convened at Chilliwack for the purpose of dedicating and consecrating the New Masonic Hall, a full report of which will be laid before you in the minutes. A pleasant feature connected with this communication was the banquet in the evening at which the wives of the brethren were present. This added very much to the enjoyment of the occasion, and to the brethren of Chilliwack I say "A Happy Thought."

December 14th, 1895. A special communication was convened at the Masonic Temple, Wellington, for the purpose of laying the Corner Stone of the New Methodist Church at Wellington and of paying an official visit to St. John's Lodge, No. 21. A full report will be found in the minutes.

On this occasion, the ladies of the Methodist Church entertained the visitors at a splendid banquet in the Odd Fellows' Hall.

CIVILITIES.

On Friday, February 14th, 1896, I received an invitation from the officers and members of Cascade Lodge, No. 12, to a Masonic Ball in the Hotel Vancouver, which proved to be one of the most brilliant and successful events in the history of Vancouver.

On Friday, April 17th, 1896, I received another invitation to a Masonic Ball given by Mountain Lodge, No. 11, at Donald. The brethren at Donald certainly know how to entertain. I was received with a right royal welcome and full Masonic honors, and thoroughly enjoyed myself as I am sure all present did. I shall not soon forget the occasion.

The V. W. Grand Secretary will no doubt in his report give you a statement of the different

BY-LAWS

which have been amended so as to conform to the new constitution, also those of New Lodges which have been approved by me; also of

COMMISSIONS

received and issued as well as of Dispensations granted.

There have been no deep or weighty questions involving Constitutional rights or Masonic Jurisprudence referred to me during the year, although some few questions arising mostly from misconception of the meaning of some clauses of the Constitution have been brought up, for instance:—

In October I was asked by Mount Hermon, No. 7, if under the following circumstances it was necessary to get Union, No. 9, to waive jurisdiction before they could confer the degrees:—A. M. Jackson employed at the power house between Westminster and Vancouver wished to become a member of Mount Hermon by initiation. He knew no one in Westminster, and spent most of his spare time in Vancouver. Union had been requested to waive jurisdiction but objected to do so. In the mean time the brethren are informed by Mr. Jackson that he rents a furnished room in Vancouver which he uses while there.

ANSWER:—By referring to Section 200, page 56, Section 218, page 60, and Section 222, page 61, it will be seen that there is no option in the matter. It is a question of residence not employment, and the mere fact of renting a room in Vancouver for convenience while in that city does not constitute residence as called for in the Constitution.

In March, Doric, No. 18, asks: 1st, Is it, according to Section 204 of the Constitution of British Columbia, compulsory for a Brother after being raised, to pass an examination in open Lodge as to his knowledge of the M. M. Degree before he is entitled to sign the By-Laws, receive his Diploma, vote or hold office?

ANSWER: Yes, decidedly.

2nd, And if so, is this retro-active? *i. e.* Is it necessary for a brother who has been raised since this decision, and since the passing of Section 204 of the New Constitution, or the equivalent Section of the old Constitution, to pass such examination, before he is fully qualified to vote or hold office, though he has already signed the By-Laws and has also received his Diploma?

ANSWER:—Section 204 applies in all cases after the present Constitution was adopted and became law. Any brother raised since then is bound to comply with the Constitution, as the old Constitution became null and void on the adoption of the present one and therefore cannot be quoted. If however the retro-action refers to any present ruling, I can only point out that my ruling does not make or unmake the law, but simply explains or interprets a law already in existence, and therefore if, as I presume from the question, there is a brother holding office in Doric Lodge who was raised since the adoption of the present Constitution and has not passed such examination, he holds his office contrary to the conditions of the Constitution. But the brother so holding office, etc., is not so much a sinner against the Constitution as the officers and members of the Lodge who put him there, and gave him all these privileges before he was entitled to them. The Lodge cannot hold him responsible for its actions, nor will the Grand Lodge do so.

During the month of March I received through the V.W. Grand Secretary a charge of unmaasonic conduct against R.W. Bro. Lees our G.J.W., made by Bro. Hamilton, a M. M. of Ashlar Lodge, and feeling sure that an explanation would be forthcoming, took the first opportunity of seeing the accused brother personally. Bro. Lees was very anxious and willing to have the matter investigated fully. In fact from what he told me I felt sure there was a misunderstanding of the facts by Bro. Hamilton, and therefore, according to Sections 110-111, page 80, instructing the Grand Secretary to issue the necessary commission, I selected the three P. M's. who form the Committee on Petitions and Grievances, as they all live in or near Nanaimo. This Committee have gone into the matter thoroughly with all concerned and the testimony fully bears out my former presumption that by a misunderstanding Bro. Lees' name was mixed up in something he had nothing to do with. I have therefore considered it as unnecessary to bring it before you.

MASONIC HOME.

As Chairman of the Committee appointed by the Grand Lodge last year to consider the matter of establishing a Masonic Home in our jurisdiction, I may say that the recommendation of M. W. P. G. M. McMicking has been carefully considered, and a special report will be laid before you together with a suggestion for taking the first steps in this direction.

Brethren, before I lay down the Gavel of authority with which you entrusted me a year ago, allow me again to express my sincere thanks for the honour conferred upon me. The work connected with this high office has been to me a labour of love, specially rendered so by the uniform kindness and loyalty of every officer and member both of the Grand Lodge and the Subordinate Lodges.

I cannot close my address without expressing my high appreciation of the services rendered to the Craft in this jurisdiction and to myself

especially, by our V. W. Grand Secretary. You have simply to visit the different Lodges and hear from one Secretary after another what they have to say about Bro. Quinlan, to know what a power he is in the jurisdiction, patient and courteous, but particular to have everything quite right.

And now may the All Wise, the Great and Glorious Architect and Ruler of the Universe, guide us in our deliberations, give us a full share of true Masonic Charity, and continue to preserve our beloved Institution by cementing and adorning it and us with every moral and social virtue.

Fraternally submitted,

LACEY R. JOHNSON,

Grand Master.

Resolved,—That the address of the Grand Master be referred to a Special Committee.

DEPUTY GRAND MASTER'S ADDRESS.

NEW WESTMINSTER, June, 1896.

To the Most Worshipful Grand Master, Officers and Members of the Grand Lodge of British Columbia, A. F. & A. M.:—

It is not my purpose to occupy the valuable time of the Grand Lodge with a lengthy address, but on the contrary, will make it as brief as possible.

On the twenty-seventh of December, I paid an official visit to Union Lodge and installed the officers. This being my own Lodge, I will leave any remarks to the D. D. G. M., whom I had the pleasure of meeting on two occasions. Unfortunately, there was no degree work during either of his visits.

On the fourteenth of January, I paid an official visit to King Solomon Lodge, and installed the officers. I am a constant visitor at this Lodge, and have frequent opportunities of witnessing their work, and have much pleasure in stating to the Grand Lodge that they do their work well, and R. W. Bro. Manson may be justly proud of his pupils.

On the twelfth of May, I accompanied the M. W. Grand Master on his official visit to King Solomon Lodge, and witnessed the second degree conferred by W. Bro. Lewis in an able manner.

On the eighteenth of May, accompanied by twenty-five New Westminster brethren, I visited Cascade Lodge, on the occasion of the M. W. G. M.'s official visit, and witnessed the M. M. Degree conferred by W. Bro. Tisdale. The work was well done, the Master and Officers working well together.

On the third of June, I accompanied the M. W. Grand Master on his official visit to Union Lodge. W. Bro. Johnston conferred the Entered Apprentice Degree, and although I am a member, I cannot help commending him and his officers for the able manner in which the degree was conferred.

This has been a dull year in our Masonic circle. There has been very little work, and we feel the hard times in Westminster, with two Lodges to be kept up in a small community. Union Lodge has suffered loss by the departure of a number of brethren from the city, but I know of only two brethren who have left the jurisdiction, viz:—W. Bro. Duncan and Bro. Gibson.

Fraternally submitted,

ALEX. CHARLESON,

Deputy Grand Master.

Resolved,—That it be referred to the Committee on the address of the Grand Master.

—:O:—

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of British Columbia:—

Your Committee to whom was referred the consideration of addresses of the M. W. Grand Master and the R. W. Deputy Grand Master, beg to report as follows:

The M. W. Grand Master is to be highly commended for his excellent address, more especially for the masterly and eloquent manner in which the tenets of our Order are set forth, and we trust the lessons and objects he desires to impress upon the Craft in this Grand Jurisdiction, will be taken to heart, and a determined effort made to live up to and on a line with the teachings of our Noble Order.

It is with pleasure that we note the unbroken chain of fraternal relations which continue to exist with Sister Grand Lodges, also that peace and harmony reign within our own jurisdiction, and that the growth of the Order has been commensurate with the times.

We recommend that suitable pages be embodied in our proceedings to the memory of our deceased Brethren.

We also recommend the adoption of the rulings as recorded, which we find in harmony with the Constitution and Masonic usage.

It is apparent from the long list of official visitations, and record of official acts, that the M. W. Grand Master has been alive to the sense of the duties pertaining to this high office. Grand Lodge certainly should place on record its appreciation of the good work performed and zealous attention given by the M. W. Grand Master during the past year.

With reference to the address of the R. W. Deputy Grand Master we find nothing therein requiring special consideration at the hands of Grand Lodge. We however, desire to express appreciations of his assistance given the M. W. Grand Master and of the various duties performed and interest manifested by the record of his official acts.

Fraternally submitted,

MARCUS WOLFE, }
CHARLES NELSON, } *Committee.*

The Grand Secretary's and Grand Treasurer's reports were read.

—:O:—

GRAND SECRETARY'S REPORT.

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of British Columbia:—

Your Grand Secretary has the honor of submitting herewith the transactions of his office in accordance with constitutional requirements.

The proceedings of the Twenty-fourth Annual Communication, owing to an unavoidable delay in receiving stock by the publisher, were not received until the 20th of November. However, the lateness of their receipt was more than balanced by their very attractive appearance, which has met with the approval of not only the members of this Grand Lodge, but of many Grand Secretaries who complimented us upon them. Copies were sent as usual to our own members and the Grand Lodges with whom we enjoy fraternal correspondence.

CHARTERS.

In compliance with resolution of last Session a Charter was issued on 3rd July to Kaslo Lodge as No. 25, also, in accordance with constitution, a seal, complete set of Lodge books, stationery, etc. This innovation, I am pleased to say, has met with the entire approval of the Lodge in question, and will certainly effect a decided improvement by tending to make the transactions and records of Lodges to a great extent uniform.

LODGES UNDER DISPENSATION.

In accordance with instructions of the M. W. Grand Master a Dispensation was issued on 9th December, 1895, to Cumberland Lodge, Union, B. C. The petition was thoroughly investigated by R. W. Bro. Coburn, D. D. G. M., before action was taken. A similar Dispensation was issued on March 1st, 1896, to Corinthian Lodge, Rossland. I had the pleasure, while visiting that locality in January last, of examining the officers. The Master, W. Bro. H. J. Raymer is a Past D. D. G. M. of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba. The work of Bro. Raymer and his officers was perfect, the prospects very gratifying, and I am sure the record of their work will meet with the approval of this Grand Lodge.

COMMISSIONS.

The M. W. Grand Master has granted the following to Grand Representatives :

March 9, 1896.—To R. W. Bro. Alfred Moyes, near the Grand Lodge of Idaho, vice Bro. Dickson, deceased.

April 22, 1896.—To W. Bro. Wm. S. Foster, near the Grand Lodge of Alabama, vice Bro. Beasley, deceased.

Commissions were issued to the several District Deputy Grand Masters, as under :

No. 1 District.....	R. W. Bro. George Hickey.
No. 2 District.....	" P. McNaughton.
No. 3 District.....	" Jno. Bannerman.
No. 4 District.....	" H. McDermott.
No. 5 District.....	" Jno. W. Coburn.

DISPENSATIONS.

The following were issued for the fiscal year ending 29th February, 1896 :

May 7th, 1895.—To Ashlar Lodge, No. 3. To receive the application of Mr. Byers, rejected through error.

May 17th, 1895.—To Mount Hermon Lodge, No. 7. To confer degrees upon Mr. Eric Erickson, mariner, with insufficient residence.

May 21st, 1895.—To Mount Hermon Lodge, No. 7. To confer degrees upon Mr. E. Lockwood, mariner, with insufficient residence.

June 19th, 1895.—To Ionic Lodge, No. 19. To wear regalia at public Divine service.

July 3rd, 1895.—To United Service, No. 24. To install officers at other date than By-Laws specify.

October 8th, 1895.—To Mount Hermon Lodge, No. 7. To confer Third Degree upon Bro. Eric Erickson, at less interval than Constitution requires.

December 9th, 1895.—To W. B. Ferguson and associate brethren to form a new Lodge at Union, B. C., to be known as Cumberland Lodge.

December 13th, 1895.—To Kaslo Lodge, No. 25. To elect and install Bro. R. F. Green as Worshipful Master of the Lodge, he not being a Past Warden.

December 19th, 1895.—To Acacia Lodge, No. 22. To install officers at other date than By-Laws specify.

December 26th, 1895.—To King Solomon Lodge, No. 17. To install officers at other date than By-Laws specify.

December 30th, 1895.—To Mount Hermon Lodge, No. 7. To confer degrees upon Mr. Robt. Lundie, mariner, with insufficient residence.

January 3rd, 1896.—To Hiram Lodge, No. 14. To wear Lodge regalia at a public ball.

February 1st, 1896.—To United Service, No. 24. To confer degrees upon Bros. Hammond, Wimble and Mills at less interval than constitution requires.

February 7th, 1896.—To Ionic Lodge, No. 19. To attend public Divine service in regalia.

February 7th, 1896.—To Cascade Lodge, No. 12. To wear regalia in public at conversazione.

February 27th, 1896.—To Ashlar Lodge, No. 3. To confer Third Degree upon Bro. Thos. Flack at less interval than constitution requires.

February 29th, 1896.—To W. Bro. H. J. Raymer and associate brethren to form a new Lodge at Rossland, to be known as Corinthian Lodge.

FRATERNAL DEAD.

The following have been reported :

Jas. A. Cohen.....	Victoria-Columbia, No. 1.
Loftus Browne.....	Vancouver-Quadra, No. 2.
Chas. Hayward, Jr.....	Vancouver-Quadra, No. 2.
Morris Moss, P. M.....	Vancouver-Quadra, No. 2.
Christian Hagaman.....	Cariboo, No. 4.
J. Van Bramer.....	Mount Hermon, No. 7.
H. E. Butler.....	Mount Hermon, No. 7.
G. D. Corrigan.....	Cascade, No. 12.
Chas. Honeyman.....	Doric, No. 18.
Hy. W. Suckling.....	Acacia, No. 22.

STATISTICS.

Recommended for expulsion by Doric, No. 18, Wm. Badcock.

SUSPENDED FOR N.P.D.

No. 1, Geo. Deans, J. Holland, Robt. Mason, Martin Thompson, Albert Mason, F. Ord. Mickle, Wm. Simpkins, P.M. Jos. Loewen.

No. 2, *Geo. H. Brown.

No. 7, Jas. Clarkson, S. R. Conners, T. W. Mayne, W. McKinnard, H. McVean.

No. 9, W. H. Finlaison, G. W. Gilley, R. W. McIntosh.

No. 12, John Boulton, D. L. Beckinsall, A. W. Draper, H. Hopkirk.

No. 16, Alex. Bain, G. Curtis, J. Fraser, W. Hogg, R. Long, F. Munroe, C. Wellington.

No. 20, F. W. Pettit.

* For U. M. C.

No. 22, John McAllister, P. M., Wm. Hobson, A. Manson, Jno. Cooper.

RESTORED.

No. 7, Jules Eggert.

No. 11, David McKay.

PAST MASTERS' DIPLOMAS.

Diploma No.	NAME.	Year of office.	LODGE.	No.	DATE OF ISSUE.
1	Thomas, Gabriel	1892	Mt. Hermon	7	10th July, 1895
2	Perkins, Wm. H. S....	1893	Doric.....	18	4th Sept., 1895
3	Young, Fred. McB....	1895	"	18	" "
4	Johnson, Lacey R....	1890	Cascade.....	12	15th Sept., 1895
5	Piercy, John.....	1887	Victoria-Columbia..	1	" "
6	Pearson, Thos. B.....	1890	" "	1	" "
7	Williams, Benjamin ...	1892	" "	1	" "
8	Gavin, John J.....	1894	Acacia.....	22	4th Jan., 1896
9	Salmon, Emanuel J....	1885	Victoria-Columbia..	1	24th April, 1896
10	Reeves, C. B.....	1895	Ionic.....	19	7th May, 1896
11	Venn, Albert J.....	1895	Miriam.....	20	30th May, 1896

Statistics

The accompanying tables are compiled from the Returns of Chartered Lodges to the 29th of February, 1896, while those of Lodges U. D. are to the 1st of June of this year. The latter have been included so that the condition of the several Lodges can be more readily observed by the Jurisdiction.

W. J. Q.

Tabular Statement of the work of the Subordinate Lodges of British Columbia, A. F. & A. M., from 1st March, 5895, to 29th Feb., 5896

Lodge.	Number.	Post Office.	Total on Roll, 1st March, 1895.	Initiated.	Passed.	Raised.	Affiliated.	Demitted.	Restored.	Suspended for non-payment of Dues.	Expelled.	Died.	Rejected.	Ent'd Apprentice.	Fellow Craft.	Master Masons on Roll.	Total on Roll 1st March, 1896.	Gain.	Loss.	SECRETARY.
Victoria-Columbia.	1	Victoria	147	4	3	3	4	6	..	8	..	1	1	2	2	138	142	..	5	Benj. S. Oddy.
Vancouver-Quadra.	2	Victoria	115	8	8	6	3	1	..	1	..	3	..	1	2	113	123	8	..	C. Fletcher.
Ashlar	3	Nanaimo.	92	2	1	3	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	94	95	3	..	C. C. McKenzie.
Cariboo.	4	Barkerville.	24	1	2	2	2	1	..	..	..	1	2	..	..	25	25	1	..	H. McDermott.
Mount Hermon.	7	Vancouver.	98	14	12	12	7	4	1	5	..	2	2	2	3	104	111	13	..	Jno. J. Banfield.
Union.	9	New Westminster.	85	4	4	4	3	7	..	3	..	..	1	1	1	77	79	..	..	W. A. DeWolf Smith.
Kamloops.	10	Kamloops.	39	4	4	3	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	40	42	3	..	E. Stuart Wood.
Mountain.	11	Donald.	50	6	5	4	..	2	1	4	..	1	3	1	1	51	53	3	..	J. C. Pitts.
Cascade	12	Vancouver	152	8	10	10	7	5	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	157	159	7	..	F. W. Hartley.
Spallumcheen.	13	Armstrong	23	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	24	24	1	..	R. S. Pelly.
Hiram.	14	Courtney.	36	2	2	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	37	37	1	..	R. S. McConnell.
Kootenay	15	Revelstoke	18	6	5	5	1	3	..	7	..	..	..	1	2	43	46	..	..	Hugh E. Smythe.
Pacific.	16	Mission	51	3	3	3	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	3	2	34	39	..	..	T. L. Downes.
King Solomon.	17	New Westminster.	39	4	4	3	..	2	..	..	1	1	2	1	2	42	45	7	..	Geo. Ritchie.
Doric.	18	Nanaimo	38	5	5	5	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	1	25	26	..	..	Wm. H. S. Perkins.
Ionic.	19	Chilliwack.	28	2	2	3	..	1	..	1	..	..	1	1	3	17	18	..	..	L. W. Paisley.
Miriam.	20	Vernon	20	1	1	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	17	18	..	..	Fredk. Billings.
St. John's	21	Wellington	34	6	5	6	4	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	43	44	10	..	F. W. Hawes.
Acacia	22	Mt. Pleasant	32	4	2	2	4	4	..	..	..	..	1	2	2	29	31	..	..	H. M. Henderson.
Nelson	23	Nelson	44	6	6	6	..	2	..	4	..	1	5	4	..	38	42	..	..	E. V. Brown.
United Service	24	Equimalt.	53	13	17	17	22	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	46	46	..	..	F. J. Bailey.
Kaslo	25	Kaslo	..	4	3	3	2	..	..	..	..	..	3	2	1	21	22	..	..	E. E. Chipman.
Cumberland.	..	Union	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	22	22	..	..	Jas. McKim.
Corinthian.	..	Rossland	..	7	5	3	4	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	1	22	25	..	..	N. A. McKenzie.

SUMMARY OF SOURCES OF REVENUE.

NAME OF LODGE.	Number.	LOCATION.	Membership at \$1.00 each	Initiations at \$1.00 each	Passings at \$1.00 each	Raisings at \$1.00 each	Affiliations at \$1.00 each	M. M. diplomas at \$2.00 each	Dispensations	Charters at \$20.00 each	Total Dues to Grand Lodge
Victoria-Columbia	1	Victoria	\$ 138 00	\$ 4 00	\$ 3 00	\$ 3 00	\$ 4 00	\$ 6 00	...	...	158 00
Vancouver-Quadra	2	Victoria	113 00	8 00	8 00	6 00	2 00	12 00	...	...	149 00
Ashlar	3	Nanaimo	94 00	2 00	1 00	3 00	1 00	6 00	...	...	124 50
Cariboo	4	Barkerville	25 00	1 00	2 00	2 00	1 00	4 00	17 50	...	35 00
Mount Hermon	7	Vancouver	104 00	14 00	12 00	12 00	7 00	24 00	20 00	...	193 00
Union	9	New Westminster	77 00	4 00	4 00	3 00	...	6 00	...	...	94 00
Kamloops	10	Kamloops	40 00	4 00	4 00	3 00	1 00	6 00	...	...	58 00
Mountain	11	Donald	51 00	6 00	5 00	4 00	7 00	8 00	7 50	...	74 00
Cascade	12	Vancouver	157 00	8 00	10 00	10 00	...	24 00	...	...	223 50
Spallumcheen	13	Armstrong	24 00	1 00	1 00	1 00	...	2 00	...	...	29 00
Hiram	14	Courtney	37 00	2 00	2 00	2 00	...	4 00	5 00	...	52 00
Kootenay	15	Revelstoke	21 00	6 00	5 00	5 00	1 00	10 00	...	...	48 00
Pacific	16	Mission	43 00	3 00	3 00	3 00	...	6 00	...	...	58 00
King Solomon	17	New Westminster	34 00	4 00	4 00	3 00	...	6 00	2 50	...	53 50
Doric	18	Nanaimo	42 00	5 00	5 00	5 00	4 00	14 00	...	...	75 00
Ionic	19	Chilliwack	26 00	2 00	2 00	3 00	...	8 00	...	...	41 00
Miram	20	Vernon	17 00	1 00	1 00	...	...	...	...	...	19 00
St. Johns	21	Wellington	43 00	6 00	5 00	6 00	4 00	18 00	...	...	82 00
Acacia	22	Mt. Pleasant	38 00	6 00	6 00	6 00	...	12 00	2 50	...	70 50
Nelson	23	Nelson	29 00	4 00	2 00	2 00	1 00	4 00	...	...	42 00
United Service	24	Esquimalt	46 00	13 00	17 00	17 00	2 00	34 00	22 50	...	151 50
Kaslo	25	Kaslo	30 0	6 00	4 00	5 00	3 00	20 00	2 50	75 00	145 50
Cumberland	...	Union	...	4 00	3 00	3 00	2 00	6 00	30 00	...	48 00
Corinthian	...	Rossland	...	7 00	5 00	4 00	...	8 00	30 00	...	54 00
Eleven P.M. Diplomats	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22 00
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	\$2100 00

ABSTRACT OF RETURNS FROM SUBORDINATE LODGES.

LODGE.	No.	Funds & Property	RELIEF GRANTED.				
			To Mem- bers.	To Wid- ow and Orphans	To Tran- sients.	Funerals.	Miscel- laneous.
Victoria-Columbia...	1	\$7665 70	\$90 00		\$32 50	\$98 75	
Vancouver-Quadra...	2	4450 00	226 15		5 00		
Ashlar.....	3	11,500 00			3 50		
Cariboo	4	475 00					
Mount Hermon	7	1900 05	284 00		47 50		
Union.....	9	500 00					\$15 00
Kamloops.....	10	1950 00			30 00		3 50
Mountain	11	850 00			59 25		
Cascade	12	3403 15	182 00		159 00		29 00
Spallumcheen.....	13	1181 70					
Hiram	14	638 91					
Kootenay	15	714 67			5 75		
Pacific	16	2070 00					
King Solomon	17	362 40					
Doric.....	18	325 00	20 50		12 00		
Ionic.....	19	600 00			10 00		
Miram	20	90 45					
St. Johns	21	1216 80		20 00			
Acacia.....	22	556 90	41 00				
Nelson	23	469 00			3 50		
United Service.....	24	2151 00					
Kaslo.....	25	512 14			10 00		
Cumberland	U D	360 00					
Corinthian	U D	450 00					
Total		\$44,392 87	\$773 65	\$20 00	\$378 00	\$98 75	\$47 50

RECAPITULATION.

Chartered Lodges	22
Lodges Under Dispensation	2
Initiated in all Lodges	121
Passed	114
Raised	111
Affiliated	41
Demitted	68
Died	10
Suspended	33
Restored	2
Recommended for Expulsion	1
Rejected	27
Diplomas M.M.	120
Diplomas P.M.	11
Dispensations issued	19
Members of Chartered Lodges	1229
" of Lodges U. D.	43
F. O's and E. A's of all Lodges	58
Total Receipts	\$ 2100 00
Total Funds and Property of all Lodges	44392 87
Total Relief to Members	773 65
Total Relief to Widows and Orphans	20 00
Total Relief to Transients	378 00
Funerals of Masons	98 75
Miscellaneous	47 50

RETURNS OF SUBORDINATE LODGES.

On the 1st of March last I sent two forms of Returns to each Lodge with instructions as to filling, etc. I will fraternally review these Returns, not in any spirit of fault-finding, but simply to "give the palm where justice points it due."

March 11th, Acacia Lodge, No. 22, neatly written, names properly entered in alphabetical order. Correct in every particular; accompanied with Grand Lodge dues.

April 1st, United Service, No. 24. The remarks on Acacia Lodge are equally appropriate.

April 6th, Victoria-Columbia Lodge, No. 1; returns correct; fairly well written; a good return. Fees not sent at same time.

April 10th, Union Lodge, No. 9; very good return. Some of new names lack full christian names; well written. Fees accompanied report.

April 21st, Cariboo Lodge, No. 4. Returns correct; names properly entered; fairly well written. Accompanied with fees.

April 25th, St. John's Lodge, No. 21. The "banner" Return. Penmanship beautiful. Correct in all details. Fees sent with Return.

April 25th, Hiram Lodge, No. 14. Neat report, but officers for 1895 entered. Some names entered twice. Returned for correction. Fees sent with first report.

April 25th, Kamloops Lodge, No. 10. Well written. One diploma and one raising omitted, otherwise correct. Fees sent with Return.

April 27th, Kaslo Lodge, No. 25. A well written report. All correct except the omission of two Masons demitted. Fees with Return.

April 27th, Ionic Lodge, No. 19. Fairly well written. Names properly entered. Report correct. Fees also sent.

April 28th, Mount Hermon, No. 7. Good penmanship but several errors. Names in some cases entered twice, others omitted. Returned for correction. Fees sent with return.

April 30th, Pacific Lodge, No. 16. Writing indifferent but return correct, and names all properly entered. Fees with Return.

May 1st, King Solomon, No. 17. Nicely written. Names of F. C. and E. A.'s left out, otherwise correct. Fees with Return.

May 1st, Spallumcheen Lodge, No. 13. Return correct in every particular. Fees received 26th April.

May 4th, Kootenay Lodge, No. 15. Fairly neat Return. Correct in all particulars. Fees sent with return.

May 9th, Cascade Lodge, No. 12. Names properly entered. A good Return. One Dispensation omitted. Fees not sent till 19th May.

May 23rd, Miriam Lodge, No. 20. Beautifully written and correct. This is Bro. Billing's first attempt and does him credit. Fees accompany Return. Only fault, names not entered in alphabetical order.

June 1st, Nelson Lodge, No. 23. Names rather mixed, which spoils appearance, but correct. Just received within constitutional limit. Fees received with return.

June 1st, Cumberland Lodge, U.D. Returns and statement well prepared. Five particulars given. Fees with Return.

June 4th, Ashlar Lodge, No. 3. Well prepared report. Names all in order. Correct. Fees sent following day.

June 10th, Doric Lodge, No. 18. Penmanship indifferent. No record of Diplomas received, kept by secretary. Fees not sent with Return.

June 12th, Corinthian Lodge, U. D. Returns nicely written and complete. Full information given. Fees, also fees for Warrant sent with Returns.

From the foregoing it will be seen that the Returns on the whole have been satisfactory. No doubt one of the reasons for errors is that our Returns have to be made in March and April, and secretaries who have been elected at the beginning of the year are to a great extent new to the work and not conversant with the details of their Lodge affairs. I must again express my appreciation of the courtesies always extended and the punctuality displayed by the secretaries in communicating with this office, and commend the honest efforts which characterize their work.

Very fraternally submitted,

W. J. Quinlan
Grand Secty

W. J. QUINLAN, GRAND SECRETARY,
Dr. IN ACCOUNT WITH THE M. W. GRAND LODGE, A. F. & A. M., B. C. R. Cr.

1896.

June 15	To Dues Chartered Lodges.....	\$1,901 00
" 15	To Warrant Fee No. 25.....	75 00
" 15	To Dispensation Fee Lodges U. D.....	60 00
" 15	To Dues, Lodges U. D.....	42 00
" 15	To P. M. Diplomas.....	22 00

\$2,100 00

1896.

June 15 By Grand Treasurer, Receipts Nos. 1 to 5
 inclusive.....\$2,100 00

\$2,100 00

GRAND TREASURER'S REPORT.

VICTORIA, B. C., 16th June, 1896.

To the M. W. Grand Master, Officers and Members of the M. W. Grand Lodge of British Columbia:—

Your Grand Treasurer is pleased to submit to the Grand Lodge, the statement of the transactions of his office for the past Masonic year.

The Receipts from all sources during the past year have been	\$2,100 00
The Disbursements as per vouchers herewith	\$1,760 15
There was a Balance at the end of last year of	\$1,213 08
And we now carry forward a balance of	\$1,553 53
which shows an increase of	\$ 249 85

The transactions of the Charity Fund have been enormous, and all arrears of interest have been collected, except that of Pacific Lodge, which however does not fall due until 10th August next, the balance of

This fund which stood at	\$3,726 58
now stands at	\$4,493 93
includes repayments of	\$ 510 00

Your Grand Treasurer regrets that owing to an operation he lately underwent, and owing to a severe cold contracted, he is unable to be personally present, as his doctor has ordered him to retire to bed, but he trusts, however, that your Finance Committee will find his accounts and vouchers in order. The small collection for interest being this time omitted, which would have been done last time, had your Treasurer considered his office a salaried one.

Wishing the Grand Lodge every prosperity, and only regretting that sickness prevents my personal presence at this meeting of the Grand Lodge,

I remain, fraternally,

H. F. HEISTERMAN,

Grand Treasurer.

H. F. HEISTERMAN, GRAND TREASURER.
Dr. In Account Current with the M. W. Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. M., of British Columbia. Cr.

1895.	June 22 To Balance	\$1213 08	June 27 By Order No. 178, W. J. Quinlan, sundries	\$ 130 00
Oct. 4 "	Kaslo Lodge, No. 25, Charter Fee	75 00	179, Grand Treasurer	50 00
1896.			180, Geo. A. Dow, sundries	33 30
April 4 "	Cumberland Lodge, U.D., Rossland	30 00	181, Eugene P. Miller, Bindings	41 00
May 4 "	Corinthian Lodge, U.D., Rossland	151 50	182, Grand Secretary	20 00
	Union	94 00	185, E. P. Miller, p/g Proceedings	50 00
	Cariboo	32 00	186, Sundry Printing	47 00
	St. John's	85 00	187, Colonist, Sundry Printing	45 50
	Kaslo	70 50	188, W. J. Quinlan, expenses	16 25
	Ionie	41 00	189, W. J. Quinlan, quarter salary	125 00
	Spallumcheen	29 00	190, E. P. Miller, p/g Proceedings	80 00
	Kamloops	58 00	191, E. P. Miller	280 00
	Mt. Hermon	188 00	192, Grand Sec'y, Postage Stamps	30 00
June 1	Victoria-Columbia	158 00	193, Est. Maurice Miller	2 75
	Vanouver-Quadra	149 00	194, Eugene P. Miller	110 75
	Ashlar	124 50	195, Sundry Masonic Journal	20 00
	Mountain	74 00	196, Sundry expenses	21 65
	Cascade	27 50	197, Grand Secretary's % yr. salary	125 00
	Hiram	2 00		
	Kootenay	8 00	198, E. Hoeker, Dep. G. Tyler, Nan.	13 00
	Pacific	38 00	199, Colonist	12 50
	King Solomon	53 50	200, Yearly Free Mason Relf. Assoc.	18 00
	Doric	75 00	201, Grand Secy's % yr. salary	250 00
	Miriam	19 00	202, Postage, etc	30 45
	Acacia	70 50	203, R. Swinerton, rent G.S. office,	30 00
	Nelson	42 00	10 per cent. Total Income to	
	Cumberland	18 00	Charity Fund	210 00
	U. D.	24 00		
	Corinthian	22 00	Balance in Bank of B. N. A.	\$1485 65
	P.M. Diplomas	2100 00	Green, Worlock & Co.	20 86
			Cash on hand	97 00
				1553 53
1896.				
June 16 To Balance	\$1553 53			\$3313 68

All which is fraternally submitted, H. F. HEISTERMAN, Grand Treasurer.

H. F. HEISTERMAN, GRAND TREASURER.

In Account Current with the Charity Fund of the M. W. Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. M. of B. C.

Dr.

1895.			
June 22	To Balances brought over from last Masonic year	\$3726 58	
Aug. 8	" Pacific Lodge, No. 16, 12 mos. interest, Aug. '95	30 00	
	" Pacific Lodge Refund Mortgage Tax 6 mos. interest.	2 50	
Nov. 6	" Columbia R. A. Chapter No. 20, 26th June.....	63 00	
1894.			
Jan. 2	" Vancouver Lodge, No. 2, 6 mos. int., Dec. 26.	33 00	
	" " Principal Repaid \$420		
Feb. 10	" Charles McTeigh, 3 mos. int. on Special Dep.	100 00	
June 8	" " principal repaid	2 50	
	" Watson, 12 mos. interest, May 7	7 50	
	" B. H. John, 12 mos. interest, June 3	15 00	
	" M. Sturdy, 12 mos. interest, April 10	40 50	
	" W. McHugh 15 mos. interest, March 26	51 00	
	" F. B. Gregory, refund of 5 p. c. Col. McHugh.	74 37	
	" Watson, Principal repaid	3 75	
10	" Vancouver-Quadra Lodge, No. 2, 6 mos. int. on	150 00	
	" " \$880 @ 6 p. c. to June 26	20 40	
11	" Columbia, R. A., Chapter No. 120, 6 mos. int.	63 00	
15	" Ten p. c. of Total Income of Grand Lodge,	210 00	
1895, 1896.			\$ 888 52

1896, June 16 To balances.....	\$4593 10
Mortgages outstanding—	
W. McHugh 6 mos.....	\$700 @ 8½ p. c.
M. Sturdy.....	600 @ 8½ p. c.
Pacific Lodge.....	500 @ 8½ p. c.
B. H. John.....	430 @ 9 p. c.
	<u>\$4593 10</u>

1895.			
July 26	By Order No. 183 Miriam Lodge, No. 20.....	\$ 50 00	
Aug. 8	By No. 184 Anacia Lodge, No. 22.....	36 00	
	By Exchange on N. W. check.....	00 15	
1896.			
June 8	By F. B. Gregory, 10 p. c. Col. McHugh	7 50	
10	" " C. Booth, Mortgage Tax, 1.33 and money order 2 c.	5 17	
	By E. L. Kirkwood, Mortgage Tax	1 35	
	By Note Vancouver-Quadra Lodge.....	\$ 680 00	
	By Note Col. R. A. Chapter 120	2100 00	
	Special Deposit Bank of B. N. A.	453 00	
	" " " "	102 50	
	" " " "	114 90	
	Cash on hand Bank of B. N. A. at call.....	946 90	
	Cash on hand in Green Worlock Bank.....	96 63	
		<u>\$4493 93</u>	

Faternally submitted,

H. F. HEISTERMAN, Grand Treasurer.

Resolved,—That the Reports of the Secretary and the Treasurer be received and printed.

—:O:—

The District Deputy Grand Masters' Reports were read.

Ordered,—That the Reports be received and printed.

REPORT OF DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER,
DISTRICT No. 1.

ESQUIMALT, JUNE, 1896.

To the Most Worshipful the Grand Master, Officers and Members of the Grand Lodge of British Columbia, A. F. & A. M.

I have the honor to submit the following report, on the condition of Masonry in No. 1 District. I beg to state that during the year I have paid each Lodge in my District four visits, and that they were made without giving the Lodges any notice of my intention, thereby enabling me to form a better judgment of their general mode of conducting the ceremonies of the different degrees, etc.

Since my appointment to the important office of D. D. G. M., I have endeavoured to fill the responsible position to the full extent afforded me by my Masonic knowledge, for I feel that accuracy of work in our beautiful ritual is most essential, and I determined that my efforts should be especially in that direction. From my more recent visits to the Lodges, I believe that my efforts have been conducive of some good for the Worshipful Masters and their Officers are doing better work. Interest in degree work is increasing in the district, and consequently there is a better average attendance at the meetings. This is as it should be, for a great deal of the success of a Lodge, depends on the proficiency of its officers, which I have never hesitated to impress on them, and when praise was merited I cordially rendered it, and when requiring to reprove, I did so in as gentle and kindly way as I possibly could, and I have, I may say, in each and every case met with encouragement for so doing.

VISITATIONS.

Victoria Columbia, No. 1. My first visit was at an emergency meeting held on the 17th October, 1895, to witness the conferring of the 1st Degree. There appeared to be a slight want of interest exhibited by the W. M. and some of the Officers, as result of not being conversant with the ritual, although they had been in office about 9 months. On expressing myself to that effect, the W. M. acknowledged there was room for improvement, and hoped that I would notice a marked difference on my next visit.

On the 19th December, I again paid a visit to witness the 3rd Degree conferred. I was much disappointed when the Lodge was opened to hear the W. M. was unable to be present, however W. Bro. Oddy, I. P. M., took the Chair, and conferred the degree in a creditable manner. I was also pleased to see that the officers appeared to take more interest throughout the ceremony, than they did on my previous visit. I regret that owing to my service duties I was unable to attend the meeting for the Installation of Officers, which was held on the 2nd January, 1896, more especially as it would have afforded me an opportunity of meeting the M. W. Grand Master, who was present to install the officers for the ensuing year. I also heard that after the closing of the Lodge a very pleasant time was spent, in fraternal intercourse.

My third visit was at an emergency meeting, held on the 20th March, 1896, when the 1st Degree was conferred. I was pleased to see a decided improvement had taken place, the W. M. and officers appeared to take an interest in their work. A liberal use of the organ was introduced into the ceremony, which I think adds a certain amount of solemnity and attractiveness to the conferring of degrees.

My last visit was at the regular meeting held on the 7th May, 1896, when I witnessed the 3rd Degree conferred. It gave me much pleasure to be able to compliment the W. M., Bro. Salmon and Officers of the Lodge on the satisfactory manner in which they had conferred the Degree. I was also pleased to see that so many Past Masters were present, and that the Brethren appeared to take a marked interest in the general working of the Lodge.

Vancouver-Quadra, No. 2. My first visit to this Lodge was at an emergency meeting, held on the 28th August, 1895, and I had the pleasure of seeing the 1st Degree conferred in a very creditable manner.

On the 16th October, I again in company with the W. M. and Senior Warden of United Service Lodge, paid a visit to see the 3rd Degree conferred, and I felt pleased before leaving to compliment W. Bro. Wilson and Officers on the efficient manner in which they had performed their duties during the evening.

By the kind invitation of W. Bro. Wilson, I again attended the Lodge for the purpose of installing the Officers on the 27th December. I was accompanied by several Grand Lodge Officers past and present, and was ably assisted in the ceremonies by P. G. M. McKeown and P. M. Netherby. During the evening a very handsome Past Master's Jewel was presented to W. Bro. Wilson, by P. G. M. Milne on behalf of the Brethren of the Lodge. The last named Brother in a few chosen words spoke of the I. P. M.'s many good qualities, as well as of the services rendered to the Lodge during his Mastership. W. Bro. Wilson responded in feeling terms. We afterwards adjourned to the room adjoining the Lodge Room, and were royally entertained at the festive board, a couple of hours being pleasantly spent in fraternal intercourse.

My next visit was on the 18th March, 1896. I then witnessed the conferring of the 1st Degree. The Master, W. Bro. Glover and his Officers did their work very creditably.

My last visit was at the regular meeting held on the 20th May, 1896. The 3rd Degree was conferred. Before leaving I was pleased to compliment W. Bro. Glover and the Officers of the Lodge on the excellence of their work, also the Brethren on their being more particular in their precision of action, when called to order, and further stated that I was very pleased to know that a truer Masonic spirit existed amongst them, than when I entered on my duties last year.

United Service Lodge, No. 24. This being my own lodge, it is with a considerable amount of diffidence that I approach the task of criticizing it, the Officers thereof, and their work, as I was present on all occasions with the exception of once, during the year that the Lodge was convened. I can only say that the past reputation of the Lodge for work, has been maintained by W. Bro. Muir, and his Officers during the year.

Its membership is chiefly composed of Brethren serving in the Naval, Military, or Dominion Services, consequently its numbers fluctuate from time to time. However, as they are so much under discipline, they naturally introduce into the Lodge an exactness, and precision of action, which add greatly to the effectiveness of the ceremonies.

My first and last duties were discharged at this Lodge. On the first occasion, accompanied by several Grand Lodge Officers, past and present, I attended on the 16th July, 1895, for the purpose of installing the Officers for the ensuing year, in which ceremony I was ably assisted by P. G. M. McKeown. On its conclusion I was somewhat surprised when W. Bro. Muir, the newly installed Master, on behalf of the Brethren of the Lodge, pinned a very handsome P. M. Jewel on my breast, at the same time expressing their appreciation of my past services to the Lodge. This, I think was more than I deserved, as after all, I had only done my duty as a Mason; however, when I look upon that Jewel it will ever bring to my remembrance the happy time I spent and the kindly feeling of the brethren of United Service Lodge, No. 24, towards me, during my Mastership which extended from its formation up to that date.

The last duty discharged in this Lodge was to preside during the election of Officers on the 3rd inst. On the conclusion of the business of the Lodge, the Brethren were *At Home* to the Sister Lodges of the district, and it also afforded them, an opportunity to bid farewell to the Brethren who had been members of the Lodge and were about to leave for England on board H. M. Ship "Royal Arthur." A goodly number of visiting Brethren were present, as well as all the Brethren about to leave the district. A few pleasant hours were spent around the festive board, several Brethren expressing their regret at having to part with so many Masonic friends and founders of the Lodge.

The exchange of visits between the Lodges in the district has been frequent, and the mutual interchange of fraternal feelings, and the social intercourse have been conducive of much good.

I have carefully examined the books, forms, etc., of the several Lodges in my district, and find them kept in a careful and efficient manner. I also wish to express my indebtedness to the Secretaries for their courtesy at all times, in furnishing me with information and giving me due notice of all meetings of their Lodges.

In conclusion I must say that I have been everywhere cordially welcomed, the Brethren vying with each other to make my visits pleasant. For their many kindnesses I take this opportunity of returning my warmest thanks, and I can assure them (although in all probability I will be leaving the province for England before the next meeting of the Grand Lodge) that the past year has been, and will ever be regarded as the brightest in my Masonic life.

Tendering my best wishes for the future welfare of the Craft in British Columbia and thanking you, M. W. Sir, for the honor conferred on me at the beginning of your term of office as Grand Master, and trusting that my successor will have as little difficulty, and as few unpleasant conditions to contend with as I have had, also that the many fraternal courtesies that I have invariably received from the Brethren during my term of office will be extended to him,

I am, Most Worshipful Sir and Brethren,

Fraternally yours,

G. HICKEY,

D. D. G. M., No. 1 District.

—:O:—

REPORT OF DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER, DISTRICT No. 2.

VANCOUVER, JUDE, 1896.

*To the Most Worshipful, the Grand Master, Officers and Members of the
Grand Lodge of British Columbia, A. F. and A. M.*

MOST WORSHIPFUL SIR AND BRETHREN :

It gives me great pleasure to present the following report of the condition of the Craft in District No. 2 :

It was with no little surprise that I found myself placed in the honorable position of D. D. G. M. of Masonic District, No. 2, at last regular communication of Grand Lodge ; and it was the more so, as the thought of aspiring thereto had not occurred to me. I wish, none the less sincerely, however, to express my thanks for, and appreciation of the honor conferred.

I have visited each lodge of the District officially, and in some cases have been able to attend more than one meeting. These visits have been a source of great pleasure and profit to me.

OFFICIAL VISITS.

On December 27th I assisted at the installation of the officers of Mount Hermon and Cascade Lodges. The work of the evening concluded, we repaired to Hotel Vancouver where a banquet was served, which was complete in every respect.

After the usual toasts and speeches the Brethren dispersed, with an expression indicating that a very enjoyable time had been spent.

On March 4th I visited Union Lodge, No. 9, New Westminster, and was pleased to meet with distinguished Brethren of the Order in the persons of R. W. Bro. Charleson, D. G. M., R. W. Peter Grant, and Past S. G. Warden of this M. W. Grand Lodge, W. Bro. De W. Smith, my immediate predecessor, and several Past Masters of the Lodge, to whom I extend my warmest thanks for their kindness to me upon that and a succeeding occasion.

On my entrance into the Lodge I found a very pleasant W. M., who was somewhat embarrassed to find neither of the candidates for the first or third degrees was present, also that all his officers were not in their places. I again visited this Lodge on April 1st, but the fates seemed against me, for again no candidates put in an appearance.

The books and records of this Lodge are in good shape, very neatly and legibly kept, but when I inform you that my immediate predecessor is the Secretary you will not wonder at that.

On April 22nd I visited Pacific Lodge, No. 16, Mission City. The first degree was exemplified very creditably, considering the disadvantages under which the Brethren labor. The W. M. lives twenty miles from the Lodge, the S. W. nine, the J. W. four, and the Secretary about seven. The first two mentioned get to the Lodge by rail, the last two walk. The officers of this Lodge show a zeal for Masonry, which in my opinion is highly commendable.

On April 24th I visited Ionic Lodge, No. 19, Chilliwack. Here I found one of the most neatly furnished Masonic homes in the district, with kind and courteous members. The third degree was exemplified. This Lodge has a good set of officers who only require practice to become expert workmen. Bro. Paisley, to whom I am indebted for many kindnesses during my visit, makes a very efficient Secretary.

On April 14th I visited King Solomon Lodge, No. 17, New Westminster. The work was an initiation, which was done perhaps in a faultless manner. W. Bro. Lewis and his officers seem to recognize the fact that accepting office carries with it the responsibilities incident to the proper performance of the duty appertaining thereto. The books and records seem to be in good hands.

On April 20th I visited Cascade Lodge, No. 12, Vancouver. Work of the evening was a raising, which was very well done. The officers appeared to be thoroughly familiar with their duties and seem to vie with each other "as to who can best work and best agree." The Secretary is a zealous and efficient officer and has his work well in hand.

On May 12th I visited Mount Hermon Lodge, No. 7, Vancouver. Had the opportunity of witnessing an initiation. The officers seemed desirous of doing the work in the best possible manner, yet it appears to me it did not come up to that high standard that we, as Masons, working the York Rite, should aspire to. I have no doubt, however, that before the end of the year there will be a marked improvement.

On May 14th I visited Acacia Lodge, No. 22, Vancouver. This was an emergent meeting and was called to suit my convenience, it being almost impossible for me to attend at a regular meeting. The work was a passing, and was well done, notwithstanding the absence of one of the principal officers. The Secretary has his work in excellent shape. The difficulty mentioned in my predecessor's report I am glad to say, has been amicably settled.

In closing, I have to thank the officers and brethren of the different Lodges for their uniform assistance to me in the discharge of my duties.

I wish, also, to thank the brethren who so kindly accompanied me in making several visits, and I am happy in the knowledge that I leave the Second Masonic District to my successor in peace and harmony.

All of which is fraternally submitted,

P. McNAUGHTON,

D.D.G.M., District No. 2.

—:O:—

REPORT OF DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER,
DISTRICT No. 5.

NANAIMO, B.C., June, 1896.

*To the Most Worshipful the Grand Master, Officers and Brethren of the
Grand Lodge.*

BRETHREN,—

It is with feelings of thankfulness that I am spared to render an account of my stewardship as District Deputy Grand Master for District No. 5, to which I was appointed for the second time. I have endeavoured to fill that honourable office to the best of my humble ability.

Since our last annual meeting some of us have passed through the fiery trial of affliction. The all-devouring scythe of Time has visited our homes and sundered the nearest and dearest of earthly ties. But

though the Great Architect of the Universe has seen fit to afflict us in His own mysterious way, we have many cause for thankfulness.

I wish to mention the kind and sympathetic acts of the brethren during my late affliction. Their thoughtfulness materially lightened the burden and soothed the sting of grief.

During the past year one new Lodge known as "Cumberland," situated at Union Mines, has been formed in this District. A detailed account of it is given further on.

On September 7th I made an official visit to St. John's Lodge at Wellington, and was received in a manner befitting the representative of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of British Columbia. We were grieved and shocked at the news that the Worshipful Master had the previous day met with a very painful accident which nearly cost him his life and confined him to bed for several weeks. P. M. Bro. Stewart ably filled the Master's chair during the Master's absence, and conferred the Third Degree, the ceremony of which was carried out in all its entirety.

I examined the books and found them kept in a neat and correct manner, which reflects great credit on the Secretary.

St. John's Lodge is doing good work, with every prospect of continued success.

On November 26th, with the assistance of P. M. Bro. Stewart and several of the brethren of Ashlar Lodge, I examined Bro. Ferguson as to his proficiency for filling the office of Master of Cumberland Lodge, about to be formed. I am happy to state that we considered he passed a highly creditable examination, and accordingly we had much pleasure not only in approving of him as Master, but in recommending the petition of the brethren to form the lodge.

On December 18th, having previously received a Dispensation from the Grand Secretary, I had the honour of instituting a new lodge at Cumberland with a charter membership of fourteen. On my arrival at Union Wharf, I was met at the boat by a delegation, who received me in the most cordial manner.

Having instituted and opened the lodge in due form, and handed the gavel to the newly appointed Master, Bro. Ferguson, I witnessed the exemplification of the First Degree. The work was performed in a very satisfactory manner indeed, and I felt it my duty to compliment the officers accordingly.

In the performance of this official duty I was materially assisted by P. M. Bro. Young, of Dorio Lodge.

After the lodge was closed, we were entertained at a very nicely prepared lunch, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all, and which brought the proceedings to a close.

The prospects of Cumberland Lodge are very bright, and I would heartily recommend that a charter be granted at this present communication. As the report of its proceedings up to the present time will be laid before you, it is needless for me to make any comments on the work done by this lodge since its institution.

December 19th found us assembled in Hiram Lodge, a special communication having been called for the purpose of exemplifying the Third Degree. This was my second official visit to Hiram Lodge, and I was agreeably surprised at the improvement the officers and members have made in their work since my last visit. Their work having been exemplified in so satisfactory a manner, I directed their attention to some improvements which I considered necessary, viz.: providing suitable pillars and tassellated carpet. A change in their forms for initiation is necessary. This, I believe, they have attended to.

I examined their several books and found them kept in the same systematic manner as during the previous year. In looking over their minute book, I found that no examinations were made in the Third Degree, and I also referred to this. With a few closing remarks of instruction and advice from myself and an address from P. M. Bro. Young, who was again with us, the meeting was closed in peace and harmony. We were then invited to a sumptuous banquet at the Courtenay House, where ample justice was done to the wants of the inner man. After the usual Masonic toasts, we were driven to Comox Wharf.

I cannot speak too highly of the hospitable manner in which I was entertained by the brethren of both Hiram and Cumberland Lodges, and I must express regret that more of the Grand officers were not with us on both occasions.

On December 27th, St. John's Day, I made an official visit to my own and mother lodge (Ashlar), having been previously invited by the retiring Master to attend and install the officers for the ensuing year, which I considered both an honour and a pleasant duty to perform.

I was received in the most cordial manner by the Master and brethren and with due respect as the representative of the Grand Lodge.

After the installation, the retiring Master, Bro. Jos. M. Brown, was presented with a very handsome Past Master's Jewel by the brethren as a recognition of his faithful services. The presentation was made by P. M. Bro. Bate with very appropriate remarks.

I wish to make mention here of the very punctual attendance of the retiring Master, who was present at every meeting held during the year.

One very pleasing feature of the meeting was the presence of the Master, Wardens, and several other officers and brethren of Doric Lodge, showing that peace and harmony exist between the two lodges—and long may it continue.

After addresses from the newly installed officers, from W. M. Davis, P. M. Perkins and several others of Doric Lodge, the lodge closed in peace and harmony.

The financial standing of Ashlar Lodge is, I believe, second to none in the Province, they having wiped out the debt so long standing, leaving a balance in cash to the good, as will be shown by the Grand Secretary's report.

On January 14th, accompanied by W. Grand Pursuivant Bro. Perkins, I made an official visit to Doric Lodge and witnessed the work in the Third Degree. We were received in the usual cordial and befitting manner by the Master and brethren. After a few brief remarks, I requested the officers to proceed with the work of the evening. The candidate was examined as to his proficiency in the Second Degree, and passed the most creditable and perfect examination I have ever had the pleasure of witnessing.

The work of conferring the degree was very satisfactory indeed, and showed that the brethren were taking an active interest in the welfare of the Lodge. There was a marked improvement since my last official visit, about one year ago.

One exception, however, I was obliged to take in regard to the work. The officers were neglecting to examine candidates as to their proficiency in the Third Degree before having them sign the By-Laws and become members of the lodge. This, they held, was not called for in the Constitution. The matter has now been satisfactorily adjusted, and the work is being carried out accordingly.

Doric Lodge has not yet secured a hall of its own, and has consequently not got the present lodge room furnished as the members would like, but it is expected that arrangements for a more suitable place will shortly be made.

After labour, the Lodge went to refreshment and enjoyed an excellent spread. After listening to remarks from visiting brethren from Cumberland (U. D.), Vancouver-Quadra, Ashlar, and Lodges in Washington, the Lodge was closed in the usual form.

The several books of the Lodge are kept in a very efficient and systematic manner, which reflects great credit on the present Secretary.

The attendance was good, as will be shown later on.

Masonry in this District has improved during the past year, financially, numerically, and in proficiency of work. The several Lodges, with one exception, have conferred more than the average number of degrees, and the attendance was about as large as could be expected under existing circumstances, as the following table will show:—

Name of Lodge.	No. of Meetings during year.	Master.	Present: S. Warden.	J. Warden.	Average No. of Members.	Membership of Lodge.
Ashlar, No. 3....	16	16	7	7	16.75	95
Hiram, No. 14....	15	14	12	13	11.60	35
Doric, No. 18....	14	14	13	14	15.14	40
St. John, No. 21..	21	20	20	20	19.71	33

From the above figures, we see that St. John has the highest percentage of attendance and Ashlar the lowest, but this is partially accounted for by the large number of Ashlar's members who have been obliged to leave town on account of the continued depression in Nanaimo.

Peace and harmony prevail amongst the Lodges and members generally, and Masonry is attaining in a degree the object sought.

There appears to be, however, a growing tendency in some of the Lodges to give too much publicity in regard to what is going on in the Lodge, a tendency which is to be much regretted, and should be guarded against by every Lodge and each individual member.

During my term of office, I have been assisted by the brethren in every way whenever and wherever their assistance was required, and it is with the greatest pleasure that I now look back to the visits made to each of the Lodges in this District, and trust that my successor will enjoy equally as great pleasure in the performance of his duties as I have in mine.

Fraternally submitted,

JOHN W. COBURN,

D.D.G.M. District No. 5.

Grand Lodge called off till 8 p.m.

—:O:—

IN GRAND LODGE.

FIRST DAY—EVENING SESSION.

GRAND LODGE AT LABOR.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES (SPECIAL)

The report of the Committee on Credentials was read.

We, your committee on Credentials having examined the Porch Book of Grand Lodge and the proxies sent by the several subordinate Lodges, respectfully report that the following are present and duly qualified :

VICTORIA-COLUMBIA LODGE, No. 1

H. L. Salmon.....Worshipful Master
 W. A. Richardson.....Senior Warden
 A. McKeown.....proxy for Junior Warden.

VANCOUVER-QUADRA LODGE, No. 2:

Geo. Glover.....Worshipful Master.
 Geo. Glover.....proxy for Senior Warden.
 A. M. MuirJunior Warden.

ASHLAR LODGE, No. 3 :

Geo. Thomson.....Worshipful Master.
 Geo. Thomson.....proxy for Senior Warden.

CARIBOO LODGE, No. 4 :

R. B. McMicking..... proxy for Worshipful Master.
 Marcus Wolfe.....proxy for Senior Warden.

MOUNT HERMON LODGE, No 7:

C. Nelson.....Worshipful Master.
 T. WardSenior Warden.
 P. McNaughton.....proxy for Junior Warden.

UNION LODGE, No. 9 :

J. B. Johnson.....Worshipful Master.
 H. N. Rich.....Senior Warden.

KAMLOOPS LODGE, No. 10 :

S. J. Tunstall.....proxy for Junior Warden.

CASCADE LODGE, No. 12.

C. E. Tisdall.....Worshipful Master.
 H. H. Watson.....Senior Warden.
 C. H. Gatewood.....Junior Warden.

SPALLUMCHEEN LODGE, No. 13 :

L. R. Johnson.....proxy for Worshipful Master.
 Wm. Downieproxy for Junior Warden.

HIRAM LODGE, No. 14:

J. W. Coburn.....proxy for Worshipful Master.
 Alex. Charleson..... proxy for Senior Warden.
 F. McB. Young.....proxy for Junior Warden.

KOOTENAY LODGE, No. 15 :

Rev. E. D. McLaren.....proxy for Worshipful Master.
 H. H. Watson.....proxy for Senior Warden.
 A. W. Black.....proxy for Junior Warden.

PACIFIC LODGE, No. 16 :

W. A. DeWolt Smith.....proxy for Worshipful Master.
 C. Nelson.....proxy for Senior Warden.
 T. L. Downsproxy for Junior Warden.

KING SOLOMON LODGE, No. 17 :

L. A. Lewis.....Worshipful Master.
 Geo. Cunningham.....proxy for Senior Warden.
 L. A. Lewis.....proxy for Junior Warden.

DORIC LODGE, No. 18 :

L. T. Davis.....Worshipful Master.
 J. H. Pleace.....Senior Warden.
 W. H. Morton.....Junior Warden.

IONIC LODGE, No. 19 :

Rev. John A. Logan.....proxy for Worshipful Master.

ST. JOHN'S LODGE, No. 21 :

Wm. Stewart.....Worshipful Master.
 John Frame.....proxy for Senior Warden.
 C. N. Westwood.....proxy for Junior Warden.

ACACIA LODGE, No. 22 :

W. D. Brydone-Jack.....Worshipful Master.
 J. W. Rickers.....Junior Warden.

UNITED SERVICE LODGE, No. 24 :

A. C. Muir.....Worshipful Master.
 A. C. Muir.....proxy for Senior Warden.
 H. J. Geake.....proxy for Junior Warden.

From the fact that some Lodges are not represented and other Lodges lost part of their representation by selecting the same Brother as a proxy, we fraternally suggest that the D. D. G. M's of the various Districts supervise the arranging of proxies in order to prevent non representation.

Fraternally submitted,

A. CHARLESON, }
 S. N. JARRETT, } *Committee.*
 W. J. QUINLAN, }

Nanaimo, 18th June, 1895.

Resolved,—That the report be received and adopted, and the committee discharged.

The report of the Committee on a Masonic Home was read.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON MASONIC HOME.

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of British Columbia:—

Your committee, to whom was referred the suggestion contained in the address of the M. W. the Past Grand Master in regard to the founding of a Home for the widows and orphans of members of the craft in this grand jurisdiction beg to report as follows:—

1. They consider that the erection or purchase of a building suitable for the purpose of a Masonic Home would require a very much larger sum than the Grand Lodge is likely to have at its disposal for a considerable time to come.

2. They do not feel warranted in recommending that such a Home should be opened even in rented quarters, until the Grand Lodge can clearly see its way to meet the annual expense that would be involved in maintaining the Home in a creditable manner. . . . That great difficulty would be experienced in providing annually the amount required for this purpose may be inferred from the difficulty experienced by other Grand Lodges whose membership and resources are vastly in excess of ours. The Grand Lodge of Michigan, for example, has 374 subordinate lodges and 36,500 members, and yet the Grand Secretary of that jurisdiction says: "With a beautiful and commodious Home completed, and now giving a comfortable home to 25 or 30 worthy inmates, the question of its permanent support is yet problematical. Although Grand Lodge is appropriating from year to year such sums as its financial condition will warrant for the temporary support of the Home, no acceptable plan has yet been devised for its permanent maintenance." Bearing in mind the financial and numerical weakness of this Grand Lodge as compared with that of Michigan, your Committee are of opinion that it will be wise to make haste slowly.

3. They recognize the extreme desirability of a larger exercise of the distinctively masonic virtue of charity; and as a practical step in the direction indicated by M. W. Bro. McMicking they recommend that the cases of any children of deceased Masons in this jurisdiction who have been left in destitute circumstances be at once reported to the Charity Committee of Grand Lodge, and that the said Committee be authorized to arrange for such children being cared for in some of the orphanages already established, drawing upon the Charity Fund for this purpose, if necessary, to the extent of \$500, in aggregate, and reporting the same to the next meeting of Grand Lodge.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

LACEY R. JOHNSON,	} Committee.
E. D. McLAREN,	
A. E. LEES,	

Resolved,—That the report be received and adopted, and the committee discharged with the thanks of Grand Lodge.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES.

The report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence was read.

Resolved,—That the report be received, and together with their review of Sister Grand Lodges printed in the proceedings.

The Report of the Committee on Charity was read.

—:o:—

REPORT ON CHARITY.

NANAIMO, B. C., June 18th, 1896.

To the M. W. Grand Lodge, A. F. & A. M.:

We, the Committee appointed to report upon the refund of amounts disbursed by the various Lodges for the relief of its members, beg to recommend that the following sums be expended:

Victoria-Columbia, No. 1.....	\$ 39 00
Vancouver-Quadra, No. 2.....	37 00
Mount Hermon, No. 7.....	48 00
Cascade, No. 12.....	55 00
Doric, No. 18.....	19 00
Acacia, No. 22.....	17 00

Fraternally submitted,

SIMON J. TUNSTALL,	} Committee.
L. T. DAVIS,	
W. A. RICHARDSON,	

Ordered to be received, adopted and the refunds suggested paid by Grand Treasurer.

—:o:—

The Report of Committee on Jurisprudence was read regarding the proposition of the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin with reference to duties of Lodges to their members in distress.

NANAIMO, B. C., June 18th, 1893.

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of British Columbia :

We, your Committee on Jurisprudence, having considered the question and perused the Reports submitted, agree with the sentiments expressed by the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin, and believe the same worthy of adoption by this Grand Lodge.

Fraternally submitted,

W. A. DEWOLF SMITH, } Committee.
H. N. RICH,

Resolved,—That the Report be received, the whole proposition printed in special circulars and sent to each member of Grand Lodge and Subordinate Lodges for consideration, and reconsidered by Grand Lodge at its 26th Communication.

The reports of Committees on Petitions and Grievances, Constitution, and Finance were ordered to be taken up as "New Business."

The Grand Master stated that election of officers was the next order of business, and appointed M. W. Bros. McKeown Wolfe and McMicking scrutineers.

The Grand Lodge was polled with following result:—

Lodge No. 1.....	6
" 2.....	4
" 3.....	7
" 4.....	2
" 7.....	6
" 9.....	7
" 10.....	2
" 12.....	7
" 13.....	2
" 14.....	3
" 15.....	3
" 16.....	4
" 17.....	4
" 18.....	5
" 21.....	3
" 22.....	2
" 24.....	3
Total.....	70 votes.

The election was proceeded with and resulted as under :

NAME.	LODGE.	RANK.
Alex. Charleson.....	9 N. Westminster.	M. W. Grand Master.
Rev. E. D. McLaren ...	12 Vancouver	R. W. Dep. Grand Master.
Ben. Williams	1 Victoria	R. W. Grand Senior Warden
John W. Coburn.....	3 Nanaimo	R. W. Grand Junior Warden
Rev. John A. Logan ...	19 Chilliwack re-el.	V. W. Grand Chaplain.
H. F. Heisterman.....	2 Victoria re-elec.	V. W. Grand Treasurer.
W. J. Quinlan	1 Victoria re-elec.	V. W. Grand Secretary.
E. Hosker.....	12 Vancouver re-el.	Grand Tyler.

Grand Lodge called from labor.

—:O:—

IN GRAND LODGE.

SECOND DAY.—MORNING SESSION.

GRAND LODGE AT LABOR.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS.

The Grand Master requested M. W. Bro. Marcus Wolfe, assisted by M. W. Bro. A. McKeown, to install the officers, M. W. R. B. McMicking acting as Grand Director of Ceremonies.

The officers elective and appointive were duly installed in AMPLE FORM.

NAME.	LODGE.	RANK.
Alex. Charleson.....	9 N. Westminster...	M. W. Grand Master.
Rev. E. D. McLaren...	12 Vancouver	R. W. Dep. Grand Master.
Ben. Williams	1 Victoria	" Sen. Grand Warden.
Jno. W. Coburn.....	3 Nanaimo.....	" Jun. " "
Rev. Jno. A. Logan...	19 Chilliwack	V. W. Grand Chaplain.
Henry F. Heisterman.	2 Victoria	" " Treasurer.
W. J. Quinlan.....	1 Victoria	" " Secretary.
Geo. Cunningham ...	17 N. Westminster...	W. Grand Senior Deacon.
S. N. Jarrett.....	7 Vancouver.....	" " Junior "
W. A. Richardson....	1 Victoria	" " Supt. of Works
A. W. Black.....	12 Vancouver	" " Dir. of Cerems.
W. H. S. Perkins	18 Nanaimo.....	" " Marshall.
T. L. Downes	16 Mission.....	" " Sword Bearer.
David Stephenson....	21 Wellington	" " Standard "
A. C. Muir	24 Esquimalt	" " Organist.
H H. Watson.....	12 Vancouver.....	" " Pursuivant.

Fred. L. Cock.....14	Comox	} Grand Stewards.
S. J. Tunstall.....10	Kamloops.....	
W. D. Brydone-Jack..22	Vancouver	
L. A. Lewis.....17	N. Westminster...	
Geo. Thompson 3	Nanaimo	
S. Mellard.....19	Chilliwack	} Grand Tyler
E. Hosker.....12	Vancouver.....	

DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS.

D. Wilson..... 2	Victoria	R.W.D.D.G.M., No. 1 District
R. E. Walker..... 9	N. Westminster	" " " " 2 "
A. G. M. Spragge.....11	Donald.....	" " " " 3 "
Henry McDermott..... 4	Barkerville....	" " " " 4 "
Fred McB. Young.... 18	Nanaimo	" " " " 5 "
E. E. Chipman.....25	Kaslo.....	" " " " 6 "

With jurisdiction over the following Lodges :

R. W. Bro. D. Wilson.....	Lodges, 1, 2, and 24.
" " R. E. Walker	" 7, 9, 12, 16, 17, 19, and 22.
" " A. G. Spragge....	" 10, 11, 13, 15, and 20.
" " H. McDermott....	" 4.
" " F. McB. Young..	" 3, 14, 18, 21, 26.
" " E. E. Chipman...	" 23, 25, 27.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

Bro. Marcus Wolfe	Ashlar,	No. 3
" A. R. Milne.....	Vancouver-Quadra	" 2
" W. A. DeWolf Smith.....	Union,	" 9

FINANCE.

Bro. B. Williams	Victoria-Columbia	No. 1
" A. W. Black.....	Cascade	" 12
" A. B. Erskine	Vancouver-Quadra	" 2

JURISPRUDENCE.

Bro. John S. Clute.....	Union	No. 9
" L. R. Johnson.....	Cascade	" 12
" Peter Grant.....	Union,	" 9

PETITIONS AND GRIEVANCES.

Bro. Wm. Stewart	Ashlar	No. 8
" Wm. K. Leighton.....	"	"
" Jos. Brown.....	"	"

PRINTING AND CHARTERED LODGES.

Bro. D. Cartmel..	Victoria-Columbia,	No. 1
" W. W. Northcott.....	Victoria-Columbia	" 1
" D. Wilson	Vancouver-Quadra	" 2

CHARITY.

Bro. A. McKeown.....	Victoria-Columbia	No. 1
" A. C. Muir	United Service	" 24
" C. C. McKenzie.....	Ashlar	" 3

CONSTITUTION.

Bro. Wm. Downie	Cascade	No. 12
" R. B. McMicking.....	Vancouver-Quadra	" 2
" E. D. McLaren.....	Cascade	" 12

Grand Lodge called from Labor.

—:O:—

IN GRAND LODGE.

SECOND DAY,—AFTERNOON SESSION.

GRAND LODGE AT LABOR.

NEW BUSINESS.

The report of the Committee on Petitions was read in reference to the request for warrants by Cumberland and Corinthian Lodges, now under dispensation.

Resolved,—That the report of the committee be received and adopted, and the Lodges be chartered as Cumberland Lodge, No. 26, and Corinthian Lodge, No. 27.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS.

NANAIMO, June 17th, 1896.

To the M. W. Grand Lodge, A. F. & A. M. of B. C. R. :—

We, your Committee on Petitions having examined the papers, reports, and several documents relating to Cumberland Lodge, at Union, B. C., and Corinthian Lodge, at Rossland, B. C., who are petitioning for warrants at this communication, beg to advise that the prayer of the petition in each case be granted.

W. STEWART, }
WM. K. LEIGHTON, } Committee

The report of the Committee on Petitions relating to the request of Ashlar Lodge, No. 3, that Grand Lodge expel Bro. D. J. McLean was read.

Resolved,—That the report be adopted, and the recommendation of Ashlar Lodge carried out. The Grand Secretary was instructed to notify Bro. McLean accordingly.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON GRIEVANCES—RE BRO. McLEAN.

NANAIMO, B. C., June 17th, 1893.

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of British Columbia:—

We, your Committee on Grievances, beg leave to report that after careful perusal of the evidence taken, in the charges preferred against Bro. D. J. McLean by Bro. S. B. Hamilton, and his subsequent trial before Ashlar Lodge, No. 3, advise that the verdict of this Lodge, recommending Bro. McLean for expulsion be carried out. The charge proven being that Bro. D. J. McLean wilfully defrauded Bro. Hamilton out of a large sum of money.

W. STEWART, } Committee
WM. K. LEIGHTON, }

—:O:—

The report of the same Committee on the recommendation of Doric Lodge, No. 18, that Grand Lodge expel Wm. Badcock, an E. A., for defrauding the Lodge was read.

Resolved,—That the report be adopted, and the recommendation carried out.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON GRIEVANCES—RE BRO. BADCOCK.

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of British Columbia:—

We, your Committee on Grievances, beg leave to report that the recommendation of Doric Lodge, No. 18, for the expulsion of William Badcock for unmasonic conduct be carried out, as the investigation clearly proves that he has been guilty of defrauding the Lodge.

W. STEWART, } Committee
WM. K. LEIGHTON, }

The report of the Committee on Constitution was read and considered clause by clause.

To the M. W. Grand Lodge, A. F. & A. M.

We, the Committee appointed on the Constitution, beg to report as follows :

In reference to the proposed amendment to Section 11 of the Constitution, whereby it is sought to eliminate the entire clause and substitute the following :

"This Constitution may be altered or amended at any regular communication of Grand Lodge, six weeks' notice being given by the Grand Secretary of any proposed amendment." We recommend that the proposed amendment be not allowed.

We recommend that Section 38 of the Constitution be amended as sought by adding the words "Grand Chaplain or," before the words Grand Tyler, in eighth line thereof.

That Section 39 of the Constitution be not amended as proposed,

That Section 41 of the Constitution be amended as proposed by adding the words "Grand Chaplain or" before the words Grand Tyler, in the second line thereof.

That Section 80 of the Constitution be amended as proposed by striking out all the words in said section after the name "Lodge" in the third line thereof.

That Section 206 of the Constitution be not amended as proposed.

That Section 148, Clause 147, of the Constitution be not amended as proposed.

That Section 197 be amended by the addition of a clause to be known as sub-section A, of Section 197, as follows: "That every Entered Apprentice shall be required to take the Fellow Craft Degree within one year, and the Master Mason's Degree within two years from his initiation, failing which, unless just and sufficient reasons be given, he shall require to be re-balloted for, as on his first admission."

All of which is most respectfully submitted,

A. McKEOWN, } Committee.
F. McB. YOUNG, }

NOTICE OF AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION BY W. BRO. DEWOLF SMITH.

SEC. 38. Add the words "Grand Chaplain or" before Grand Tyler, on eighth line.

SEC. 39. Strike out all the words after "result," on seventh line.

SEC. 41. Add the words "Grand Chaplain or" before Grand Tyler, on second line.

SEC. 80. All words after "Lodge," third line, to be struck out.

SEC. 206. All words after "Standing" ninth line, to be struck out.

NOTICE OF AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION BY W. BRO. GEO. GLOVER.

1. That in Section 148, Clause 14. be amended by striking out the words "one dollar" in third line and substituting therefor "seventy-five cents."

2. That Section 197 be amended by the addition of a Clause, to be known as sub-section A, Section 197. "That every Entered Apprentice shall be required to take the Fellow Craft Degree within one year, and the Master Mason's Degree within two years from his initiation, failing which, unless just and sufficient reasons be given, he shall require to be rebalotted for, as on his first admission."

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See first resolution, page 55.

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

NANAIMO, B. C., 18th June, 1896.

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of British Columbia:—

Your Finance Committee have the honor to report that they have examined and compared the books, papers, vouchers and accounts of the Grand Treasurer.

In the General Account we find the statement of Receipts and Expenditure to be correct; proper vouchers having been produced for each item of expenditure.

CHARITY FUND STATEMENT.

We find the receipts, as reported, correct, but the statement does not include interest on special deposits in Bank of B. N. A.

We have to mention one irregularity in disbursements, viz: On June 10, 1896, \$1.35 is stated to have been paid to E. L. Kirkwood, for which there is neither voucher nor explanation.

We note also the sum of \$206.70 refund of Charity for years 1894-5, under sub-clause 4 of paragraph 133, Constitution, mentioned in our report of last year, has not been paid. We include this in our present statement of liabilities of this account.

The Grand Treasurer has this year failed to include in his report a statement of outstanding interest, and we have endeavored to repair this oversight to the best of our ability. Otherwise we have pleasure in stating that the V. W. Grand Treasurer's accounts are in excellent shape.

FINANCIAL STANDING.

GENERAL ACCOUNT.

The Assets of the Grand Lodge are as follows :—

Cash in Bank of B. N. A.....	\$ 1,435 65
“ Defunct Bank of G. W. & Co.....	20 88
“ Treasurer's hands	97 00
Total.....	\$ 1,553 53

Liabilities unknown or nil.

CHARITY FUND ACCOUNT.

Assets:—

Per Note Columbia Royal Arch Chapter, No. 120, Victoria, due 29th June, 1899, and bearing interest at 6 per cent. per annum	\$ 2,100 00
Per Note Vanconver-Quadra Lodge, No. 2, Victoria, due 29th June, 1899, and bearing interest at 6 per cent. per an- num ; \$1,100 less the sum of \$420 paid on account, Jan. 2nd, 1896.....	680 00
First Mortgage on real estate, due 1st September, 1898, by W. McHugh, bearing $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. interest per annum....	700 00
First Mortgage on real estate, due 9th June, 1899, by M. L. Sturdy, bearing $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. interest per annum.....	600 00
First Mortgage on real estate by Pacific Lodge, No. 16, Mis- sion, bearing $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. interest per annum, due 9th April, 1896, and extended for three years by resolution of Grand Lodge last session	500 00
Per Note due 5th June, 1896, signed by B. H. John and Cather- ine Greenwood, bearing interest at 9 per cent. per an- num, with Building Society Stock as collateral.....	450 00
We understand from the Grand Treasurer that this note now overdue will be paid inside of thirty days from this date.	

CASH.

Special deposits at Bank of B.N.A. at interest	\$ 670 40
Deposit on Call “ “ “	946 90
In Defunct Bank, Green, Worlock & Co.....	96 63
	\$ 1,713 93

SEC. 41. Add the words "Grand Chaplain or" before Grand Tyler, on second line.

SEC. 80. All words after "Lodge," third line, to be struck out.

SEC. 206. All words after "Standing" ninth line, to be struck out.

NOTICE OF AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION BY W. BRO. GEO. GLOVER.

1. That in Section 148, Clause 14. be amended by striking out the words "one dollar" in third line and substituting therefor "seventy-five cents."

2. That Section 197 be amended by the addition of a Clause, to be known as sub-section A, Section 197. "That every Entered Apprentice shall be required to take the Fellow Craft Degree within one year, and the Master Mason's Degree within two years from his initiation, failing which, unless just and sufficient reasons be given, he shall require to be rebalotted for, as on his first admission."

18th June, 1896.

—:O:—

The report on the Committee of Finance was read.

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

NANAIMO, B. C., 18th June, 1896.

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of British Columbia:—

Your Finance Committee have the honor to report that they have examined and compared the books, papers, vouchers and accounts of the Grand Treasurer.

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We note also the sum of \$206.70 refund of Charity for years 1894-5, under sub-clause 4 of paragraph 133, Constitution, mentioned in our report of last year, has not been paid. We include this in our present statement of liabilities of this account.

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FINANCIAL STANDING.

GENERAL ACCOUNT.

The Assets of the Grand Lodge are as follows :—

Cash in Bank of B. N. A.....	\$ 1,435 66
“ Defunct Bank of G. W. & Co.....	20 88
“ Treasurer's hands	97 00
Total.....	\$ 1,553 53

Liabilities unknown or nil.

CHARITY FUNDS.

120, Victoria, at 6 per cent.	\$ 2,100 00
vanconver-Quadra Lodge, No. 2, Victoria, due 29th June, 1899, and bearing interest at 6 per cent. per an- num ; \$1,100 less the sum of \$420 paid on account, Jan. 2nd, 1896.....	680 00
First Mortgage on real estate, due 1st September, 1898, by W. McHugh, bearing $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. interest per annum....	700 00
First Mortgage on real estate, due 9th June, 1899, by M. L. Sturdy, bearing $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. interest per annum.....	600 00
First Mortgage on real estate by Pacific Lodge, No. 16, Mis- sion, bearing $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. interest per annum, due 9th April, 1896, and extended for three years by resolution of Grand Lodge last session	500 00
Per Note due 5th June, 1896, signed by B. H. John and Cather- ine Greenwood, bearing interest at 9 per cent. per an- num, with Building Society Stock as collateral.....	450 00
We understand from the Grand Treasurer that this note now overdue will be paid inside of thirty days from this date.	

CASH.

Special deposits at Bank of B.N.A. at interest	\$ 670 40
Deposit on Call “ “ “	946 90
In Defunct Bank, Green, Worlock & Co.....	96 63
	\$ 1,713 93

Interest Outstanding :—

Pacific, No. 16, Mission, to 10th August, 1896.....	\$ 32 50
Columbia Royal Arch Chapter, to 26th June, 1896...	63 00
Bank interest not stated	95 50
Total.....	\$ 6,839 43

Collocated as under :—

Invested at interest with Lodges and Chapter.....	\$ 3,280 00
“ “ Private individuals.....	1,750 00
Cash.....	1,713 93
Interest outstanding.....	95 50
Total.....	\$ 6,839 43

Liabilities :—

Refund of Charity under sub-clause 4 of paragraph 133, Constitution, for years 1894-5.....	\$ 206 70
Refund of Charity under sub-clause 4 of paragraph 133, Constitution, for years 1895-6.....	378 00
Total.....	\$ 584 70

Income of Charity Fund :—

10 per cent of General Revenue.....	\$ 210 00
\$3,280.00 invested at 6 per cent. nett.....	196 80
\$1,300.00 “ at 8 “ “	104 00
\$450.00 “ at 9 “ “	40 50
Total.....	\$ 551 30

We consider that one-half the amount paid the Grand Treasurer should be charged against this account.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

Your Committee beg to tender the following recommendations :

1. That the items under “Cash in Green, Worlock & Co.’s” be taken from the Cash Account and placed in a Suspense Account.
2. That Grand Lodge do at this session appoint one or more Trustees in whom the securities of Grand Lodge may be vested, and that the Finance Committee be empowered to employ legal talent in having an assignment so vesting the securities prepared.

All of which is fraternally submitted,

(Signed)

B. WILLIAMS, } For Finance
A. W. BLACK, } Committee.

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of British Columbia :

Your Finance Committee have the honor to report that they have examined and compared the books, papers and accounts of the Grand Secretary and find them correct.

(Signed)

B. WILLIAMS, } *For Finance*
A. W. BLACK, } *Committee.*

Resolved,—That the clauses which the Committee recommend for amendment as stated be passed; that the Grand Secretary have the proposed alterations printed and sent to the Subordinate Lodges and members of Grand Lodge for their approval. The report of the Committee was adopted.

Resolved,—That the Report be received and adopted and the recommendations carried out.

Resolved,—That a bond for Five Thousand Dollars be obtained from a reputable Guarantee Company for the Grand Treasurer, the premium to be paid by this Grand Lodge.

Resolved,—That the present Trustees of the funds of the Grand Lodge be relieved from duty, and that the Grand Master and Grand Wardens for the time being and their successors in office are hereby appointed a Board of Trustees, in whose name all funds and property of the Grand Lodge shall be vested, and that they also act as an advisory body to the Grand Treasurer in investing the funds of the Grand Lodge.

The question of purchasing twenty shares in the Masonic Temple Association of New Westminster was discussed.

Resolved,—That the subject be referred to the Trustees and Committee on Finance for action, if they deem it advisable and if there be funds to invest.

Resolved,—That an additional Masonic District, to be known as District No. 6, be hereby created to comprise all that part of Yale and Kootenay Districts south of the 50th parallel.

Resolved,—That regalia for the use of the D. D. G. M. of No. 6 District and the Immediate Past Grand Master together with such other paraphernalia as is needed for Grand Lodge be purchased, and that the Grand Secretary order the same at once, viz.: Two sets of regalia, three swords, rods for Deacon and Stewards, one standard for Grand Lodge.

Resolved,—That the Rank of R. W. Past District Deputy Grand Master be conferred upon W. Bro. Hickey of United Service Lodge, No. 24, in token of his valuable services in founding and managing that Lodge.

MONEY GRANTS.

The Finance Committee brought down their estimates of expenditure for the year 1896-7, as follows:—

ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE, 1896-7.

VICTORIA, B. C., June 19th, 1896.

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of British Columbia :

In accordance with Clause 6, Section 86, Constitution, your Finance Committee beg to present the following Estimate of Expenditure for the ensuing year :

GENERAL ACCOUNT.

Secretary's Salary.....	\$ 600 00
Printing.....	500 00
Treasurer's Salary ($\frac{1}{2}$).....	25 00
Stationery, expressage, etc.....	100 00
Vote to Lodges of Nanaimo on occasion of entertaining Grand Lodge at this session.....	150 00
Grand Lodge Regalia.....	100 00
Total.....	\$ 1475 00

The funds in this account available, at this date, for expenditure amount to..... \$ 1533 53

CHARITY FUNDS.

Refunds to Lodges, Transient Charity 1894-5.....	\$ 206 70
“ “ “ “ 1895-6.....	378 00
Treasurer's Salary, (½).....	25 00
Refunds recommended by Charity Committee to Lodges.	214 00
Total.....	\$ 823 70
Income of Fund for this year.....	\$ 551 80

All of which is fraternally submitted,

(Signed) B. WILLIAMS, } *For Finance*
 HARRY H. WATSON, } *Committee.*

Resolved,—That the estimates be adopted as brought down.

Resolved,—That the Twenty-sixth Annual Communication of Grand Lodge be held in the City of Victoria.

Resolved,—That the thanks of Grand Lodge are due and hereby tendered to the several Transportation Companies for favors extended.

—:O:—

IN GRAND LODGE

SECOND DAY.—EVENING SESSION.

The M. W. Grand Master ordered a procession to be formed, and Grand Lodge proceeded to St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, where an excellent sermon was preached by V. W. Bro. J. A. Logan, Grand Chaplain, to the great edification of the members of Grand Lodge and many others.

On returning to Grand Lodge, it was Resolved,—That the thanks of Grand Lodge be extended to the Grand Chaplain, the officials of St. Andrew's Church, and the choir, and that a transcript of the sermon be requested for publication in the Proceedings.

No further business appearing, the Grand Lodge, after benediction by the Grand Chaplain, was closed at 9 p. m. in AMPLE FORM and so proclaimed.

W. J. Quinlan
Grand Secty

P. S.—At 10 p.m. the officers and members of Grand Lodge and many visitors were royally entertained by the local Lodges at a banquet in the Opera House. It is needless to say that the Nanaimo brethren maintained their former reputation as hosts of a high order.



A SERMON

Delivered before the Grand Lodge, A. F. & A. M., British
Columbia, at the 25th Annual Session,
Nanaimo, by

V. W. J. A. LOGAN, Grand Chaplain.

—————:o:—————

Eph. 4.1.—I therefore.....beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called.

The Apostle had been dwelling on the Christian theme with forcible language, and in glowing terms he describes the nature and character of the religion which brings redemption and forgiveness of sin, and by which Jew and Gentile would be "fitly framed together and grow into a holy temple in the Lord." The more he ponders and muses over the scheme, the more does it broaden and rise in his estimation. Its vastness, its fitness, its completeness are increasingly wonderful. In surveying its practical principles, its glorious blessings, he advances from step to step, from point to point, from height to height until he reaches an eminence beyond which human longings cannot travel, and exclaims, "It passeth knowledge."

Having thus set before his readers the lofty and sacred character of the principles of that system which they had adopted and professed—having endeavored to enthuse them with an exalted idea of those privileges which were within their grasp—he invites them to show their appreciation of them, in upright life, and consistent behaviour.

Doubtless he had cause to fear, that between profession and practice, lay a vast discrepancy—possibly their daily life revealed clear evidence that they either misunderstood or failed to practise the noble sentiments to which he had just given utterance, or perchance, some, forgetful of their solemn vows—forgetful of the singular nobility of the Christian life, had acted in a way, at once disgraceful to themselves, to the cause they had embraced, and to the Master they served. So he exhorts them with all earnestness—"I therefore..... beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called."

Taking our text from its setting, we may find in it an application suitable to our Ancient and Honorable Fraternity. Masonry, too, has its ideals, noble sentiments and lofty principles. It goes without saying that no human institution was ever raised on better principles, or laid on a more solid foundation, while its maxims and rules are most helpful in regulating and moulding the character and life. It has been well described as "a science of morality, veiled in allegory, and illustrated by symbols; whose mission is, to inculcate charity and benevolence, to teach truth and fact and to encourage every moral and social virtue.

That Masonry is looked upon as the handmaid of our holy religion is so far an evidence of its wholesome teachings and sound moral basis. On no other supposition could it be considered as holding so friendly a relation to the kingdom of Christ. The church has ever guarded, with scrupulous care, the channels through which light and life pass on to the children of men; and it is only after strict trial, due examination and practical information, that she has found this order so lawfully entitled to enter with her upon the great work of bettering and benefiting humanity. This fact, I say—stands forth corroborating its doctrines, and indicates that they are healthful and beneficial; and should recommend the order to those who hesitate, on the grounds of purely religious forebodings, to participate in our liberties and privileges.

That masonry is *ancient* is a further testimony of its stability and usefulness. This venerable institution has descended to us from the centuries of the past, sparkling with brightness and goodwill, and bearing upon its landmarks the traces of great antiquity. Ancient it certainly is; and in its progress down the stream of time, we can easily imagine that it has been a great dispenser of relief, truth and brotherly love to all who have come within the range of its kindly influence. There is not wanting evidence that before men met in sanctuaries to praise God, our ancient brethren met on the highest hills and in the lowest valleys for the purposes of the craft and the worship of Jehovah. Masonic love relates, not only the triumphs, but the opposition, persecution and various obstacles which at different times in its history have either impeded the progress and usefulness of or imperiled the very existence of masonry. From without and from within has the edifice been assailed, the worst foes always being those of its own household. The baser passions which awoke in the craftsmen at the building of King Solomon's Temple, and which produced such fatal results, have too often been repeated, yet the goodwill has gone on continuously; men have joined the order, have devoted their energies to the craft, have defended and illustrated its truths, have fought its battles, dispensed its charities, relieved the needy, and have passed off the stage of time, and fill unknown graves.

"They have no place in storied page,
No rest in marble shrine;
They are past and gone with a perished age—
They died, and "made no sign."

But work that will find its wages yet,
 And deeds that their God did not forget,
 Done for the love divine—

These, were the mourners, and these shall be
 The crowns of their immortality.

Oh! seek them not where sleep the dead,
 Ye shall not find their trace;

No graven stone is at their head,
 No green grass hides their face;
 But sad and unseen in their silent grave,
 It may be sand or the deep sea wave,

Or a lonely desert place;
 For they need no prayers, and no mourning bell.
 They were tombed in true hearts that knew them well."

That this institution has withstood the shock of time, has resisted the encroachments of vice, error and ignorance; has maintained her liberty and independence in the face of prejudice, superstition and persecution, and survived internal dissensions, and is to-day strong and prosperous, carrying on the work as never before, is due, not only to the fidelity of its members, but also to those sound and holy principles which lie at the oedrock of her superstructure.

It is also an *honorable* institution and as such discloses its exalted character. The greatest and best of men in all ages have been encouragers and promoters of the art, and have never deemed it derogatory to their dignity to level themselves with our fraternity, extend their privileges and patronize their assemblies. Royalty, men of science and philosophy, men of wealth and wisdom, in fact men from every walk in life have knelt at our altar, and joined together in working out the eternal principle of brotherhood on the common platform of Freemasonry. Here it may be said that "the rich and the poor meet together" and demonstrate to the world the benefits of a system founded on the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man. But Masonry does not claim recognition merely on the ground of age and honor, it puts in a further plea, in the character of its work. For what, after all, is the idea of Masonry? What are the implements of the Craft? What are the materials it has to deal with? Certainly not the trivial, the evanescent or the perishing. It does not handle hammer and nails, boards, laths or timber. It takes hold of the marble, the granite, the rock, the cement, it works with the mallet, the plumb, square, level and trowel. These are not mere playthings, but materials out of which and with which are fashioned the most substantial and enduring structures. And grand as may be the contemplation of human achievements by Masonic art, they are only emblematic of the still greater things which result from the right application of speculative Masonry. Our work calls us into the great quarry of imperfect humanity where we find the rough ashlar awaiting the skill of the craftsmen. Our work is with men—men whose hearts have too often been defaced by the fierce fires of passion and indwelling sin; men in the different stratifications to which they have been thrown by surrounding influences. Among these we are to go, to

speaking, to plead, to pray, to lead, to curve, to polish, never relinquishing our hold until they are fitted as living stones, for that spiritual building, that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. The idea of physical perfection, theoretically a requisite in the candidate for Masonic light, foreshadows that high state of morality and virtue to which we seek to bring those who come to be refreshed at the fountain and imbibe the principles of true Masonry.

Without going into particulars let me say that the *tenets* of our Order will bear the test of careful scrutiny. These are ever open for examination. The world may study them at any time. The secrets and methods of Masonry belong to the Craft, but its working principles and vital doctrines are at the disposal of all who wish to "mark, learn and inwardly digest" them.

Among those truths most surely believed amongst us is a belief in Almighty God, the Great Architect of the Universe, whose blessing is implored in all our convocations, and whose help is sought to aid in all laudable undertakings.

The Holy Bible is one of the Great Lights of Masonry, and ever lies on the altar, and without it no communication can be held.

The doctrine of the brotherhood of mankind lives in our symbols and instructions. "One is your master, even Christ, and all ye are brethren."

Such teachings as love, kindness, forbearance, forgiveness, temperance, fortitude and such like are ever inculcated, while the members are continually exhorted to deeds of benevolence and charity.

Such then is the structure that rises up for our contemplation. We may not say "it passes knowledge," but surely we can say that "it is worthy of all acceptance."

Brethren, these tenets belong to the great brotherhood which we represent. We have subscribed to them. We have professed them—we have vowed to put them into the warp and woof of our daily life.

Are we faithful to the trust handed down to us from past generations? How do these sacred principles enter into the practice of the several duties which we owe to God—to man? May I not be allowed here to apply the words of our text: "I beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called."

How then is this to be done? What are the particulars in which I may do this?

In answer: "In various ways." Something may be accomplished in this line by regular attendance and constant loyalty to the Lodge of which we are individually members, and by our fidelity to the position in which the brethren have placed us; in qualifying ourselves as much as

we can for doing the best possible work ; by imparting instruction to the less informed brethren ; in a conscientious performance of the many services which open up to us when in Lodge convened.

The tendency is to set the standard of what we ought to do and how we ought to do it, too low. Some may be disposed to think that having attended the regular communications, and paid their dues, that little more is required. Others may regard Masonry in the light of a social or business transaction, and look upon it as being worth whatever they can make out of it. Others may take an interest in it only for the pleasure or position it offers. I need not remind you that it is for none of these things that Masonic light shines, and that such objects are unworthy—most unworthy of this institution, and that brethren, actuated by these or similar views, do not walk worthy of the vocation wherewith they are called.

Now let me say, that what seems to be a prime factor in Masonic life is high character. Not what a man has, but what a man is ; not his profession, but his life ; not his deeds, but himself. We make a great mistake in supposing that the determining quality is either position, ability or wealth. In the race of life it must be the character that tells. In the last analysis it turns the scale. If we are to preserve unsullied the fair name of Masonry, and hand it to posterity untarnished ; if we are to walk worthy of our vocation, it must be by the purity, honesty and holy purposes of our lives, and our devotion to principle and right conduct.

Brethren, whatever else we may have, or may be, if we cultivate the flower of a blameless life, masonry is not likely to suffer at our hands ; and if we would attain the highest end of existence, we will find it—if we search for it as for silver—in living well.

“ He liveth long who liveth well,
All other life is short and vain ;
He liveth longest who can tell
Of living most for heavenly gain.

He liveth long who liveth well,
All else is being flung away ;
He liveth longest who can tell
Of true things truly done to-day.

Waste not thy being ; back to him
Who freely gave it freely give ;
Else is that being but a dream,
’Tis but to be and not to live.”

It is in the lump and detail, too, of our lives that those outside form their opinions of our Order. They do not see our inner working. They cannot. They may not even read what they have the right to read of our principles. But they read us. They translate our actions, and from them formulate their judgments of Masonry. For this reason we should live our tenets. Wherefore, “I beseech you, brethren, that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called.”

Let me direct your minds to the need of greater attention to those whom we know do not walk worthy of their vocation. These may be found in many if not in all of our Lodges. There are brethren who do

not realize their high calling ; who have the name, but have not imbibed the spirit of Masonry ; who have fallen into ways of sin, and by their actions defame the principles which they have espoused. Some, too, may have backslidden, and their names do not appear on any roll.

Now these brethren should be looked after, should be a special care. To reclaim the erring is a part of our mission ; to be ever ready to stretch forth the hand to assist and save a fallen brother is a duty ; and to whisper good counsel in the ear of the straying ; to remind him of his errors and aid his reformation is one of the charges laid upon each of us. It may not be easy work, but the burden of it is laid at our doors. The inclination in us may be strong "to let the brother go." We may feel like chiding him for his misdemeanor, and spurning him for his disgrace. But better thoughts should prevail. The true spirit of Masonry will lead us, while we hate the wrong, to try and reclaim the wrong-doer. With a proper sense of our own failings and shortcomings, we will not bear too hard on those of others, but in the spirit of the Master "do to others as we would that they should do to us." With him we may leave the heart while with all kindness we strive to restore the brother to his rightful place.

In the words of the Scottish bard :

"Then gently scan your brother man,
Still gentler sister woman,
Though they may gang a kennin' wrang,
To step aside is human.

One point must still be greatly dark,
The moving why they do it !
And just as lamely can we mark
How far, perhaps, they rue it.

Who made the heart, 'tis He alone
Decidedly can try us.
He knows each chord—it's various tone,
Each spring—it's various bias.

Then at the balance let's be mute,
We never can adjust it ;
What's done we partly may compute,
But know not what's resisted."

I must not, however, ~~press~~ ^{press} any further upon your time and patience. Let me urge upon you to contemplate the value and dignity of our noble Order. Be true to your obligations ; familiarize yourselves with the work ; be instant in season, out of season, practice its tenets, and strive to exhibit more and more in daily life those qualities which are ennobling and Christ-like. It is said that the stones of the famous temple of Solomon were so well fitted, and so evenly cut and polished before being brought to the place where they were to stand, that they were afterwards so joined together in the holy place that no man heard there the sound either of axe or hammer. Thus may we, as living stones in that spiritual building while pursuing our various callings, or using the tools of our beloved Craft, be plumbd and squared ; be fitted and prepared by a virtuous education—by the exercise of the nobler graces, and by divine aid—for that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. Amen.

First Six Officers of Grand Lodge from Date of Organization.

Year.	Grand Master.	Dep. Grand Master.	Senior Warden.	Junior Warden.	Treasurer.	Secretary.
1871	I. W. Powell	J. F. McCreight	S. Duck	Henry Nathan	M. W. Waitt	* H. F. Heisterman.
1872	I. W. Powell	J. A. Grahame	S. Duck	W. R. Clarke	* M. W. Waitt	* H. F. Heisterman.
1873	I. W. Powell	J. F. McCreight	W. Dalby	E. Harrison, sr.	* M. W. Waitt	* H. F. Heisterman.
1874 }	S. Duck	F. Williams	E. Harrison, sr.	H. Brown	* M. W. Waitt	* C. M. Chambers.*
1875 }	F. Williams	E. Harrison, sr.	C. Thorne	* J. G. Vinter	* M. W. Waitt	* C. M. Chambers.*
1876	F. Williams	E. Harrison, sr.	J. G. Vinter	* C. M. Chambers	* M. W. Waitt	* E. Harrison, jr.
1877	E. Harrison, sr.	J. G. Vinter	* C. M. Chambers	* H. Brown	* M. W. Waitt	* E. Harrison, jr.
1878	E. Harrison, sr.	C. M. Chambers	H. Brown	E. Harrison, jr.	* M. W. Waitt	* E. C. Baker.
1879	E. Harrison, sr.	C. M. Chambers	H. Brown	E. Harrison, jr.	* M. W. Waitt	* E. C. Baker.
1880	C. M. Chambers*	H. Brown*	W. T. Livock	E. Harrison, jr.	* M. W. Waitt	* E. C. Baker.
1881	H. Brown*	M. Bate	T. Trounce	E. Harrison, jr.	* M. W. Waitt	* E. C. Baker.
1882	E. C. Baker	T. Trounce	R. B. Kelly	R. Beaven	* M. W. Waitt	* E. C. Baker.
1883	E. C. Baker	T. Trounce	R. Beaven	A. R. Milne	* M. W. Waitt	* A. R. Milne.
1884	F. Trounce	W. Dalby	A. R. Milne	J. C. Hughes	W. Dalby	E. C. Neufelder.
1885	W. Dalby	A. R. Milne	J. C. Hughes	* W. Stewart	H. F. Heisterman	E. C. Neufelder.
1886	A. R. Milne	J. S. Clute	D. H. Ross	H. Hoy	H. F. Heisterman	E. C. Neufelder.
1887	A. R. Milne	J. S. Clute	H. Hoy	A. McKeown	H. F. Heisterman	Henry Brown.*
1888	A. R. Milne	J. S. Clute	Marcus Wolfe	W. Downie	H. F. Heisterman	Henry Brown.*
1889	J. S. Clute	A. McKeown	Wm. Downie	S. Clarke	H. F. Heisterman	W. J. Quinlan.
1890	A. McKeown	Marcus Wolfe	Sibree Clark	Peter Grant	H. F. Heisterman	W. J. Quinlan.
1891	Marcus Wolfe	Wm. Downie	Peter Grant	R. B. McMicking	H. F. Heisterman	W. J. Quinlan.
1892	Wm. Downie	Sibree Clark	Lacey R. Johnson	Alex. Charleson	H. F. Heisterman	W. J. Quinlan.
1893	Sibree Clark	R. B. McMicking	Alex. Charleson	E. D. McLaren	H. F. Heisterman	W. J. Quinlan.
1894	R. B. McMicking	Lacey R. Johnson	Alex. Charleson	A. E. Lees	H. F. Heisterman	W. J. Quinlan.
1895	Lacey R. Johnson	Alex. Charleson	B. Williams	Jno. W. Coburn	H. F. Heisterman	W. J. Quinlan.
1896	Alex. Charleson	E. D. McLaren				

* Deceased.

GRAND REPRESENTATIVES NEAR OTHER GRAND LODGES.

Grand Lodges.	Name.	Residence.
Alabama	Wm. S. Foster	Mobile.
Arizona	R. W. Merrill P. Pingree	Freeman.
Arkansas	W. J. B. Bond	Little Rock.
Beyreuth	R. W. Karl Benker	Beyreuth.
Canada	R. W. John Creasor	Owen Sound.
California	W. Aaron Chalfant	Punta Arenos.
Carolina, North ..	W. Rev. Daniel B. Wilson	Baltimore.
Carolina, South ..	W. A. W. Taft	Charleston.
Columbia, Dist. of.	W. John Lockie	Washington.
Colorado	W. Frank C. Young	Denver.
Connecticut	W. Nelson G. Hinckley	Hartford.
Cuba, Isle of	W. Candido Sanchez	Havana.
Dakota, North	W. V. S. Stickney	Dickenson.
Dakota, South	W. J. H. Brown	Sioux Falls.
Delaware	R. W. Chas. C. Heisler	Newark.
England	W. J. Braddock Moncton	London.
Florida	W. Livingston W. Bethel	Key West.
Georgia	W. John S. Davidson	Atlanta.
Hungary	V. W. St. Titl.	Buda Pesth.
Idaho	Alfred Moyes	Pocatello.
Illinois	R. W. Loyal L. Munn	Freeport.
Indiana	W. Wm. F. Tulley	Indianapolis.
Indian Territory ..	W. M. H. Pace	Kully Chaha.
Ireland	R. W. F. C. Crossel	Newry.
Italy	R. W. Adriano Lemme	Rome.
Kansas	W. A. H. Connett	Great Bend.
Louisiana	W. Amos Kent	Kentwood.
Maine	W. T. R. Simonton	Camden.
Manitoba	V. W. Jas. A. Carley	Winnipeg.
Maryland	W. Chas. W. Hatter	Baltimore.
Michigan	M. W. R. C. Hathaway	Grand Rapids.
Minnesota	W. Chas. D. Boyce	Minneapolis.
Mississippi	W. M. C. Shell	Houston.
Missouri	W. Theo. Brace	Jefferson City.
Montana	M. W. John Stedman	Helena.
New Brunswick ..	W. John S. Benson	Chatham.
New Hampshire ..	W. Arthur M. Dodge	Hampton Falls.
New Jersey	W. Henry S. Haines	Burlington.
New Mexico		
New South Wales ..	W. J. F. Burns, L.S.A.	Sydney.
New York	W. Thos. Bell	Bensonhurst.
New Zealand	V. W. Harry Caplen	Auckland.
Nebraska	W. Wm. Adair	Dakota City.
Nova Scotia	R. W. Thos. R. Harris	Aylesford.
Nevada	W. Geo. Gillson	Carson City.
Ohio	W. W. A. Ward	Conneaut.
Oregon	W. B. G. Whitehouse	Portland.
Peru	W. E. V. Chavez	Lima.
Prince Edward Is'd	W. Daniel Ross	Stapley Bridge.
Quebec	W. Dickson Anderson	Montreal.
Rhode Island	W. George E. Webster	Newport.
South Australia ..	W. Fred'k A. Benchmore	Adelaide.
Scotland	R. W. Edward Savage	Aberdeen.

GRAND REPRESENTATIVES NEAR OTHER GRAND LODGES.—Continued.

Grand Lodges.	Name.	Residence.
Tasmania	R. W. W. A. Macdougall	Hobart.
Texas.....	W. T. H. Haynie.....	Lampasas.
Utah	M. W. W. Grant Van Horne.....	Salt Lake City.
Vermont	R. W. Henry W. Hutchings.....	Bellows Falls.
Victoria, Australia	R. W. F. G. Manchester.....	Melbourne.
Virginia.....	W. S. McLaughlin.....	Hallins.
Virginia, West...	R. W. Roger B. Rees.....	Clifton.
Washington.....	W. Jas. R. Hayden.....	Olympia.
Wisconsin	W. H. S. Goss.....	Portage.

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GRAND REPRESENTATIVES NEAR THIS GRAND LODGE.

Grand Lodges.	Name.	Residence.
Alabama.....	W. A. Haslam.....	Nanaimo.
Arizona.....	W. I. Oppenheimer.....	Vancouver.
Arkansas.....	M. W. E. C. Baker.....	Victoria.
Beyreuth	V. W. H. F. Heisterman.....	"
Canada	M. W. Wm. Daiby.....	"
California	R. W. Mark Bate.....	Nanaimo.
Carolina, North...	W. James Stone.....	Barkerville.
Carolina, South...	M. W. Marcus Wolfe.....	Nanaimo.
Columbia, Dist. of	M. W. Eli Harrison, sen.....	Victoria.
Colorado	R. W. Wm. Stewart.....	Nanaimo.
Connecticut	W. Benj. Springer.....	Moodyville.
Cuba, Isle of.....	W. John Teague.....	Victoria.
Dakota, North...	W. Jas. Abrams.....	Nanaimo.
Dakota, South...	W. Thos. B. Pearson.....	Victoria.
Delaware.....	R. W. R. B. Kelly.....	N. Westminster.
England.....	R. W. Eli Harrison, jun.....	Departure Bay.
Florida	W. Geo. S. Russell.....	Victoria.
Georgia.....	M. W. E. C. Baker.....	"
Hungary	W. E. J. Salmon.....	"
Idaho	W. Wm. Howay.....	N. Westminster.
Illinois.....	W. W. W. Northcott.....	Victoria.
Indiana		
Indian Territory.	V. W. Thos. Shotbolt.....	Victoria.
Ireland	V. W. W. J. Quinlan.....	"
Italy		

GRAND REPRESENTATIVES NEAR THIS GRAND LODGE—Continued.

Grand Lodges.	Name.	Residence.
Kansas	W. E. Stuart Wood	Kamloops.
Louisiana	M. W. Fred'k Williams	Victoria.
Maine	M. W. Marcus Wolfe	Nanaimo.
Manitoba	R. W. Eli Harrison, jun.	Departure Bay.
Maryland	W. J. W. Hamilton	Nelson.
Michigan	M. W. Alex. R. Milne	Victoria.
Minnesota	W. Alex. M. Fraser	N. Westminster.
Mississippi	M. W. R. B. McMicking	Victoria.
Missouri	W. John Piercy	"
Montana	W. W. W. Downie	Vancouver.
New Brunswick	R. W. Eli Harrison, jun.	Departure Bay.
New Hampshire	R. W. Eli Harrison, sen.	Victoria.
New Jersey	W. E. J. Peck	Vancouver.
New Mexico	M. W. E. C. Baker	Victoria.
New South Wales	W. W. A. De Wolf Smith	N. Westminster.
New York	W. Gabriel Thomas	Vancouver.
New Zealand	W. R. P. Rithet	Victoria.
Nebraska	R. W. Peter Grant	N. Westminster.
Nova Scotia	W. Jos. Brown	Nanaimo.
Nevada	R. W. H. Hoy	N. Westminster.
Ohio	V. W. H. F. Heisterman	Victoria.
Oregon	R. W. A. H. B. Macgowan	Vancouver.
Prince Edward Is'd	W. C. Nevello Westwood	Nanaimo.
Peru	W. Jas. Reid	Quesnelle.
Quebec	W. John Teague	Victoria.
Rhode Island	M. W. A. R. Milne	Victoria.
Scotland	M. W. Lacey R. Johnson	Vancouver.
Tasmania	W. Munroe Miller	Victoria.
Texas	V. W. H. F. Heisterman	"
Utah	M. W. Sibree Clarke	Kamloops.
Vermont	M. W. W. Dalby	Victoria.
Victoria, Australia	W. Eli Harrison, sen.	Victoria.
Virginia	W. Thomas Downie	Donald.
Virginia, West	M. W. J. S. Clute	N. Westminster.
Washington	R. W. Ben. Williams	Victoria.
Wisconsin		
South Australia		

DIRECTORY OF GRAND LODGES.

CANADA AND UNITED STATES.

GRAND LODGE.	Grand Secretary.	Address.
Alabama.....	H. Clay Armstrong.....	Montgomery
Arizona.....	Geo. J. Roskrugs.....	Tucson
Arkansas.....	F. Hempstead.....	Little Rock
British Columbia..	W. J. Quinlan.....	Victoria
Canada.....	John J. Mason.....	Hamilton, Ontario
California.....	Geo. Johnson.....	San Francisco
Colorado.....	Edward Carroll Parmelee.....	Denver
Connecticut.....	John H. Barlow.....	Hartford
Dakota, South...	Geo. A. Pettigrew.....	Flandreau
Dakota, North...	F. J. Thompson.....	Fargo
Delaware.....	Benj. F. Bartram.....	Wilmington
Dist. of Columbia..	Wm. R. Singleton.....	Washington, D. C.
Florida.....	W. P. Webster.....	Jacksonville
Georgia.....	Andrew M. Wolihin.....	Macon
Idaho.....	Chas. C. Stevenson.....	Boise City
Illinois.....	J. H. C. Dill.....	Bloomington.
Indiana.....	W. H. Smythe.....	Indianapolis
Indian Territory..	J. S. Murrow.....	Atoka
Iowa.....	Theodore S. Parvin.....	Cedar Rapids
Kansas.....	Albert K. Wilson.....	Topeka
Kentucky.....	H. B. Grant.....	Louisville
Louisiana.....	Richard Lambert.....	New Orleans
Maine.....	Stephen Berry.....	Portland
Manitoba.....	W. G. Scott.....	Winnipeg
Maryland.....	Jacob H. Medairy.....	Baltimore
Massachusetts....	Sereno D. Nickerson.....	Boston
Michigan.....	Jefferson S. Conover.....	Coldwater
Minnesota.....	Thos. Montgomery.....	St. Paul
Mississippi.....	J. L. Power.....	Jackson
Missouri.....	John D. Vincil.....	St. Louis
Montana.....	Cornelius Hedges.....	Helena
Nebraska.....	Wm. R. Bowen.....	Omaha
Nevada.....	C. N. Noteware.....	Carson City
New Brunswick...	F. W. Wisdom.....	St. John
New Hampshire...	George P. Cleaves.....	Concord
New Jersey.....	Thos. H. R. Redway.....	Trenton
New Mexico.....	Alpheus A. Keen.....	Albuquerque
New York.....	Edward M. L. Ehlers.....	New York
North Carolina...	John C. Drewry.....	Raleigh
Nova Scotia.....	Hon. W. Ross.....	Halifax
Ohio.....	J. H. Bromwell.....	Cincinnati
Oregon.....	James F. Robinson.....	Eugene
Oklahoma.....	J. S. Hunt.....	Stillwater, O. T.
Pennsylvania.....	Wm. A. Sinn.....	Philadelphia
Prince Edward Is'd	Neil McKelvie.....	Summerside
Quebec.....	John A. Issacson.....	Montreal
Rhode Island.....	Edwin Baker.....	Providence
South Carolina...	Charles Inglesby.....	Charleston
Tennessee.....	John B. Garrett.....	Nashville
Texas.....	John Watson.....	Houston
Utah.....	Christopher Diehl.....	Salt Lake City
Vermont.....	W. G. Reynolds.....	Burlington

DIRECTORY OF GRAND LODGES—Continued.

Grand Lodge.	Grand Secretary.	Address.
Virginia.....	Geo. W. Carrington.....	Richmond
Washington.....	Thos. M. Reid.....	Olympia
West Virginia.....	Geo. W. Atkinson.....	Wheeling
Wisconsin.....	John W. Laffin.....	Milwaukee
Wyoming.....	W. L. Kuykendell.....	Saratoga

GREAT BRITAIN.

England.....	Edward Letchworth.....	London
Scotland.....	David Murray Lyon.....	Edinburgh
Ireland.....	Archibald St. George.....	Dublin

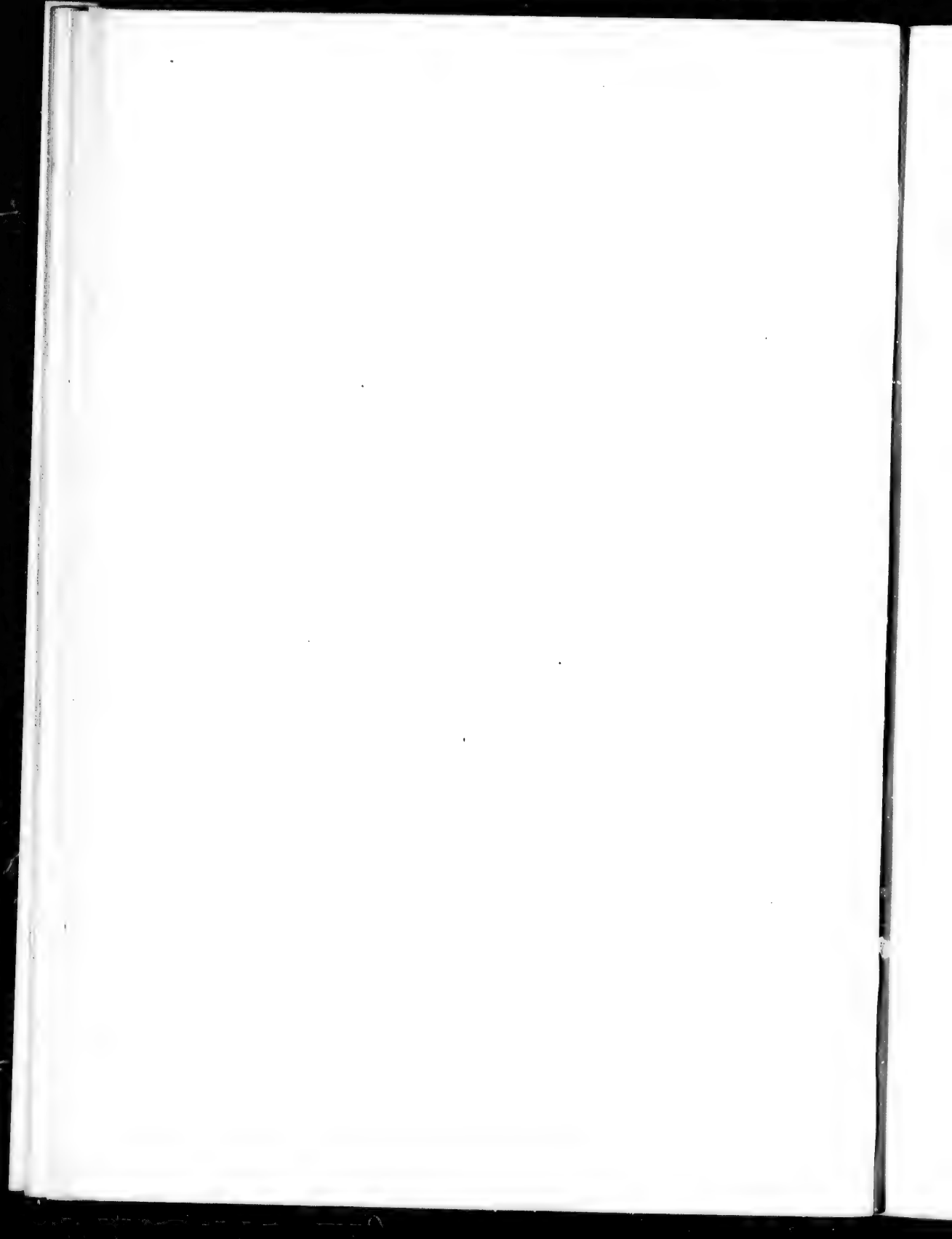
EUROPEAN.

Austro-Hungary..	Joseph Hausdorfer.....	Buda Pesth
Belgium.....	Rian Nedgrot.....	Brussels
Denmark.....	Wm. Schytte.....	Copenhagen
France—Lodge.....	P. D. Hamill.....	Paris
France—Council..	E. Berard.....	Paris
Germany.....	Ernest Kelman.....	Berlin
Three Globes....	C. W. Lynde.....	Berlin
National.....	Wilhelm Rahe.....	Berlin
Royal York.....	Karl Bouche.....	Berlin
Hamburg.....	F. W. Bokelmann.....	Hamburg
Hess Darmstadt..	Dr. Carl Nies.....	Darmstadt
Union Electric..	Karl Paul.....	Frankfort-on-Main
Saxony.....	F. G. Stenbler.....	Dresden
Bavaria.....	G. H. Fischer.....	Beyreuth
Greece.....	S. Stephenson.....	Athens
Holland.....	J. Boudewinzse.....	The Hague
Italy.....		Rome
Portugal.....	J. d'A. de Franco-Netto.....	Lisbon
Roumania.....	Dr. N. Theodoreschi.....	Bucharest
Spain—Lodge.....	Don Juan U. Y. Fernandez.....	Madrid
Spain—National..	Julio Fernandez Espina.....	Madrid
Sweden.....	Robert Dickson.....	Stockholm
Switzerland.....	Hermann Krauss.....	Geneva
Hungary.....	Maurice Gelleri.....	Buda Pesth

AUSTRALIA.

New South Wales.	A. H. Bray.....	Sydney, Australia
Victoria, Australia	Rev. D. Meadowcroft.....	Melbourne, Victoria
South Australia..	James H. Cunningham.....	Adelaide
Tasmania.....	John Hamilton.....	Hobart
New Zealand.....	Rev. Wm. Ronaldson.....	Auckland, N. Z





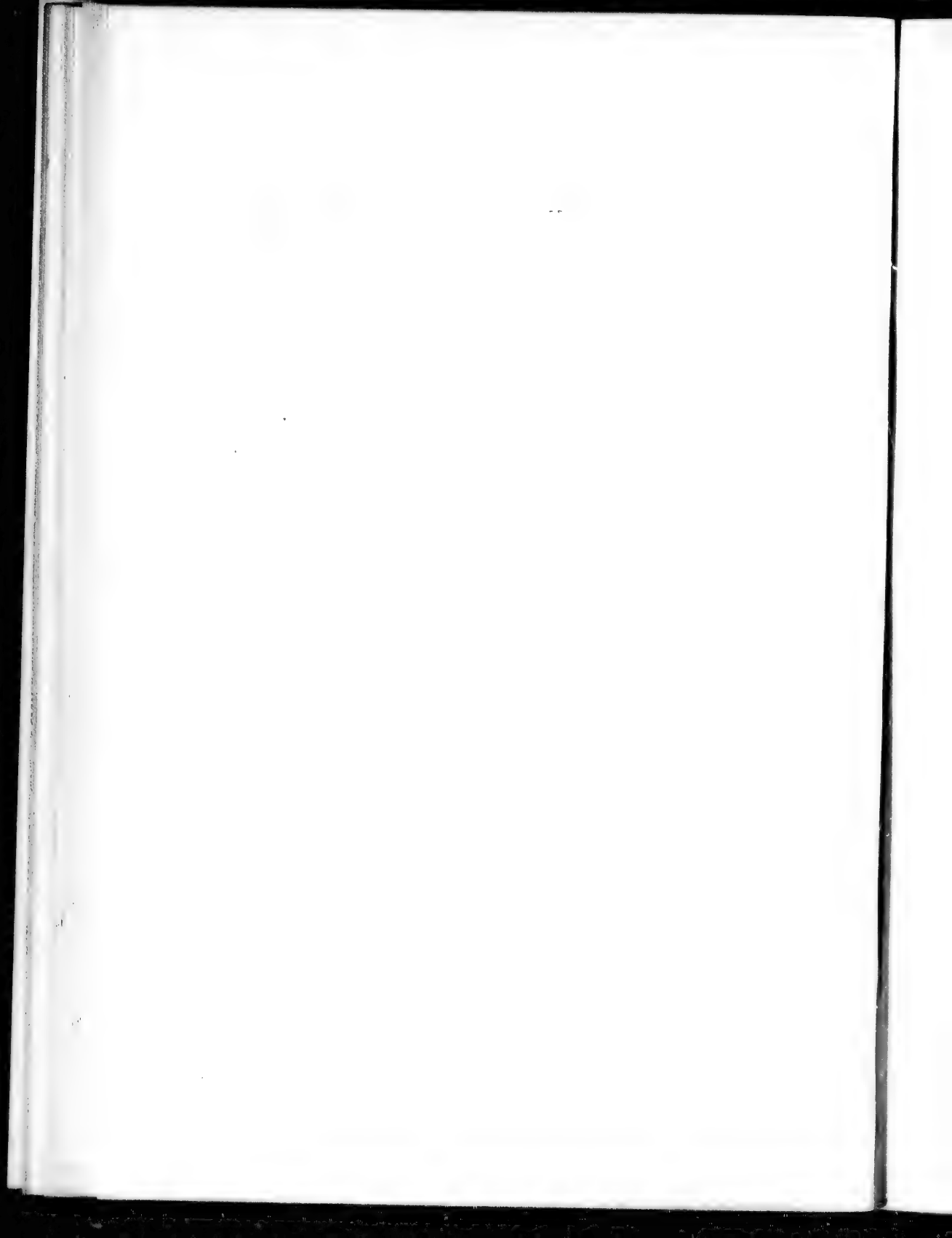


The
Fraternal Dead

OF THIS JURISDICTION.

Master Masons

JAS. A. COHEN.
LOFTUS BROWNE.
C. HAYWARD, Jr.
CHRISTIAN HAGAMAN,
J. VAN BRAMER.
H. E. BUTLER,
G. H. CORRIGAN.
CHAS HONEYMAN.
HY. W. SUCKLING.



APPENDIX NO. I

RETURNS OF THE SUBORDINATE LODGES

UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE

M.:W.:Grand Lodge of British Columbia

From March 1st, 1895, to February 29th, 1896.

VICTORIA-COLUMBIA LODGE, No. 1,

VICTORIA, B. C.

Regular Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month, at Masonic Temple.

OFFICERS.

Salmon, Henry L.	Worshipful Master	Brett, Robert Emmett ...	Senior Deacon
Richardson, William A.	Senior Warden	Murray, William	Junior Deacon
Stewart, Alexander	Junior Warden	Jones, A. McN.	Steward
Quinlan, W. J., P. M.	Treasurer	Riddell, Peter J.	Steward
Oddy, B.S., P. M.	Secretary	Speed, J. W.	Inner Guard
Sharpe, Rev. C. E. (not a mem.).	Chaplain	Stockham, Fred'k.	Tyler
Crocker, J. W.	Director of Ceremonies	Andrews, James	Organist

PAST MASTERS.

Baker, E. Crow.	McFarlane, George.	Teague, John.
Belyea, A. L.	Northcott, Wm. W.	Traunce, Thomas.
Cartmel, Daniel.	Piercy, John.	Williams, Frederick.
Flint, Arthur St. George.	Pearson, T. B.	Williams, Benjamin.
Millar, James.	Russell, George M.	Weiler, John.
McKeown, Angus.	Shotholt, Thomas.	
McGregor, Moses.	Salmon, E. J.	

MASTER MASONS.

Arthur, William.	Greoch, William	Dodds, Thomas
Broderick, R.	Chipehase, Robert	Draucey, Robt.
Blackwood, E. E.	Curren, W. D.	Dean, John
Brown, Thos. H.	Cartnow, John A.	Esouf, R. B.
Boatook, Hewitt	Cameron, Allan	English, Robt.
Church, Jerome E.	Coltart, John	Elford, J. P.
Croft, Henry	Courtney, George L.	Ellis, W. H.
Campbell, Daniel	Danby, W. H.	Elliott, John George

VICTORIA-COLUMBIA LODGE, No. 1.—Continued.

MASTER MASONS.

Flett, Henry T.
Fraser, R. L.
Flumerfelt, Alfred C.
Fullarton, J. S.
Gunne, Thos. Salter
Greenhalgh, Samuel
Hollins, J. M.
Harrison, J. B.
Hall, John
Johnson, E. E. C.
Jeffcott, J. C.
Jones, John
Jones, Charles F.
Kelly, S. L.
Kettle, W. H.
Ker, D. R.
Knight, George
Levy, J. L.
Langley, Edward
Leverson, J. C.
Mason, C. Dubois
Munro, George E.
Mesher, George C.
Mesher, George
Mallette, Charles E.
Martin, A. C.
Martin, J. T.
Milne, George L.

Munn, Henry A.
Mable, Wm. J.
McCahill, Michael
McNiven, Alexander
McCandless, Alex. G.
Mackenzie, William G.
Macrae, J. E.
Nicholson, J.
Nicholson, Thomas
Nicholles, John
Northcott, J. A.
Nickells, W. T. J.
Noakes, James
Phillips, Alexander
Pennock, W. H.
Preece, Thomas
Prosser, Thos. H.
Prevost, W. L.
Payne, Gerald F.
Perdue, George M.
Porter, Robt. J.
Perry, Wm. H.
Peiser, Kurt K.
Robinson, J. J.
Rusta, Andrew
Ridgman, A. H.
Robson, Fredrick
Robinson, Theodore H.

Reddick, Wm.
Robertson, James R.
Richards, Oliver
Ross, H. C.
Sheehan, Daniel
Shaw, W. H.
Saunders, Henry
Smith, J. McK.
Smith, Wm. J.
Stanton, Herbert
Sinclair, Robert
Salmond, Samuel
Swinerton, Robert H.
Stocks, Joseph H.
Sheppard, Henry W.
Sharp, Kendrick
Schmith, Geo.
Toller, Albert
Toneri, Peter E.
Tulk, Charles J.
Townsend, Neville F.
Trickey, William
Wenger, John
Whittaker, William
Wills, Albert
Williams, William T.

DEMITTED.

Dunderdale, Ernest N.
Fletcher, T. S., P. M.

Grove, W. H.
Fowler, Jasper.

Burns, William Carr
Mallory, George Thos.

FELLOW CRAFT MASONS.

Clarke, John Sibree

Williams, W. H.

ENTERED APPRENTICE MASONS.

Davidson, Augustus Alexander.

Rostein, Joseph.

MASTER MASONS DECEASED.

Cohen, James A.

SUSPENDED.

Deans, George
Holland, Joshua
Loewen, Joseph

Mason, Robert
Mason, Albert
Mickle, Francis Ord

Simpkins, William, P. M.
Thompson, Martin

EXPELLED.

Mitchell, T. R., P. M.

VANCOUVER-QUADRA LODGE, No. 2.

VICTORIA, B. C.

Regular Meetings are held on the Third Wednesday of each month at Masonic Temple.

OFFICERS

Glover, George.....	Worshipful Master	Shaw, Richard.....	Senior Deacon
Thompson, M. H.....	Senior Warden	Robertson, F. V.....	Junior Deacon
Muir, A. M.....	Junior Warden	Catterall, Thomas.....	Steward
Lovell, J. B.....	Treasurer	Lismore, Joseph.....	Steward
Fletcher, Cecil.....	Secretary	Walkley, Arthur.....	Inner Guard
Campbell, Rev. Dr. John.....	Chaplain	Stockham, F. (not a member).....	Tyler
Blackwood, Jas.....	Dir. of Cer.	Berry, Francis.....	Organist

PAST MASTERS.

Dalby, W.	Harrison, Eli, Senr.	Netherby, S. B.
Dow, George A.	Harrison, Eli, Jr.	Phillips, J. E.
Erskine, A. B.	Milne, A. R.	Ross, D. H.
Grahame, J. A.	McMicking, R. B.	Waller, Henry.
Heisterman, H. F.	Miller, J. Munroe	Wilson, David

MASTER MASONS.

Anderson, D. H.	Gregg, F. T.	McIvor, Rodk.
Anderson, John	Gregory, F. B.	McArthur, James
Austin, Henry James	Haynes, W.	McKenzie, A. M.
Bullen, W. F. T.	Haynes, Geo. W.	McKeil, Robt. E.
Brown, Frederick	Heron, Robt.	McDougall, E.
Bucknam, S. W.	Hunter, Jos.	Newman, Adolph
Bishop, George	Harris, D. R.	Ormiston, George
Bragg, Ed.	Harrison, S. G.	Purver, R. L.
Bragg, W. Thos.	Harris, C. J.	Patterson, John
Bryce, Jas.	Hayward, Charles	Price, W. G.
Calbreath, J. C.	Hunter, A. S.	Pascos, W. H.
Cunningham, Robt.	Horne, Thomas H.	Pope, W. F. C.
Coigdarripe, John	Henderson, Thos.	Rudlin, Geo.
Cox, C. N.	Isaacs, Jacob	Rithet, R. P.
Cutler, M. F.	Irving, P. A.	Ruckle, Hy.
Campbell, Charles	Jones, W. H.	Ross, Adam
Campbell, John J.	Jenner, Geo.	Robertson, Geo. W.
Chestney, W. R.	Kelly, David L.	Steele, Peter
Challoner, W. L.	Leiser, Simon	Shaw, Thos.
Clayton, Geo. L.	Leiser, Gustav	Shaw, James
Dawley, F. J.	Lewis, Aaron	Sinclair, T. F.
Davies, Joshua	Lewis, Lewis	Stallard, C. E.
Danneberg, Herman	Moody, T. G.	Sinclair, Dan
Drake, Richard	Madden, Jerh.	Turner, J. H.
Dillon, C. F.	Morrison, Wm.	Tolmie, Andrew
Ercols, Dominique	Meyer, Wm.	Williams, John
Frank, Alex.	Magnesen, Alf.	Walker, H. G.
Gilmore, Alex.	Magnesen, Theo. M.	
Gutman, David	McLennan, John	

DEMITTED.

Pearson, E.

VANCOUVER-QUADRA LODGE, No. 2.—*Continued.*

FELLOW CRAFT MASONS.

Gustafson, Olaf,

Henderson, Anton

ENTERED APPRENTICE MASONS.

Anderson, Wm. A.
Borns, Walter
Hughes, Wm. Ottis

Lang, A. D.
Morrison, Rodk.
Parsons, C. W.

Piper, C. T. W.
Stewart, Alex.

MASTER MASONS DECEASED.

Browne, Loftus

Hayward, Charles, Jr.

Moss, Morris, P. M.

SUSPENDED.

Brown, Geo. H., (U. M. C.)

ASHLAR LODGE, No. 3.

NANAIMO, B. C.

Regular Meetings are held on the First Wednesday in each month.

OFFICERS.

Thomson, Geo.....Worshipful Master
Barrett, E. W.....Senior Warden
Lukey, R. J.....Junior Warden
Bate, M. P. M.....Treasurer
McKensie, C. C., P. M.....Secretary
Barnes, E. C.....Director of Ceremonies

Hoskin, E. A.....Senior Deacon
Jones, Thos.....Junior Deacon
Larrs, S. E.....Steward
Bradley, Jas.....Steward
Cowie, Jas.....Inner Guard
Vance, John.....Tyler

PAST MASTERS.

Brown, Joseph M
Coburn, Jno. W.
Dillon, H. A.

Drake, Samuel
Frame, Jno.
Leighton, W. K.

Renwick, Jno.
Westwood, C. N.
Wolfe, Marcus, P. G. M.

MASTER MASONS.

Aitken, Jas.
Anderson, Robt.
Baker, Geo.
Bertram, Jno
Bevilockway, Geo.
Boggiano, D.
Campbell, Walter
Cowling, W. B.
Davies, Thos. L.
Davis, David
Davis, Thos H.
Dick, John
Dobson, David
Duffie, Matthew
Ferguson, D. W.
Flack, Thos.
Frame, Jas.
Hamilton, S. B.

Hardy, C. R.
Harris, David
Henderson, Alex.
Horne, A. G.
Horne, A. H.
Horth, C. W.
Hughes, Jno.
Hurst, Wm. J.
Joncas, Frank
Kirkwood, R.
Land, Peter M.
Lawley, Thos. E.
Leask, Geo.
Lewis, Wm.
McBean, Geo. A.
McBroom, Arch.
McCartney, A.
McCulloch, Wm.

Martell, J.
Mehaffy, Robt.
Milne, Thos.
Monroe, Hugh
Moss, Thos. F.
Muirhead, Jas.
McKinley, Jas.
McKinnell, Andrew
McLachlan, R. K.
McLay, Robt.
McMillan, Ewen
Mahrer, Jno.
Marshall, Wm.
O'Connell, Thos.
Patterson, Jno.
Paulson, Jno.
Pender, James
Pottinger, D. R.

ASHLAR LODGE No. 3.—Continued.

MASTER MASONS.—Cont.

Reilley, J. C.
Richardson, W.
Robinson, W. J.
Ross, Hy
Ross, W.
Rowe, R. H.
Rumming, C. H.

Sabiston, Jno.
Sloan, W.
Stirtan, W. J.
Summerhayes, Alfred
Tait, Andrew
Thomas, David
Trounce, W.

Trumper, J. A.
Van Houton, J. W.
Watson, Aaron V.
Young, C. N.
Zellinsky, Saul

DEMITTED.

Irwin, Thos.

ENTERED APPRENTICE MASONS.

Lamont, Malcolm

CARIBOO LODGE, No. 4.

BARKERVILLE, B. C.

Regular Meetings are held on the first Saturday of each month, at Masonic Hall.

OFFICERS.

Stone, James, P.M....	Worshipful Master	McDermott, H., P.M.....	Secretary
Innes, James.....	Senior Warden	Phelps, Wm. H.....	Senior Deacon
Kirkpatrick, W. J.....	Junior Warden	Hunter, Thos. C.....	Junior Deacon
Kelly, Andrew, P.M.....	Treasurer	Wormold, Wm.....	Tyler

PAST MASTERS.

Stephenson, W.

MASTER MASONS.

Brown, N. H.
Bawden, Thos.
Glendinning, P.
Johnson, W. A.
Lewis, L. J.

Lanyon, Jno.
McMillan, J. C.
McKay, David
O'Neil, C.
Paulsen, C. J.
Reid James

Shaw, David R.
St. Laurent, J. H.
Pegart, Arthur Henry.
Thormahlen, T.
Watt, Hugh

MASTER MASONS DECEASED.

Hagaman, Christian

MOUNT HERMON LODGE, No. 7.

VANCOUVER, B. C.

Regular meetings are held on the First Tuesday of each month, at Masonic Hall

OFFICERS.

Nelson Chas.....	Worshipful Master	Robertson, H....	Director of Ceremonies
Ward, Talbot.....	Senior Warden	Hogg, Wm.....	Senior Deacon
Cowperthwaite, F.M.....	Junior Warden	Allen, J. A.....	Junior Deacon
Lees, A. E., P. M.....	Treasurer	Marrion, R.....	Steward
Banfield, John J.....	Secretary	Aconley, Wm.....	Steward
MacLeod, Rev. J. M.....	Chaplain	Bowser, W. J.....	Inner Guard
	Shelton, G.....		Tyler

PAST MASTERS.

Allan, P. A.	Irwin, W. H.	Oppenheimer, I.
Black, Geo.	Jarrett, S. N.	Springer, B.
Casselman, B.	Little, Jos.	Thomas, G.
Gillies, D. W.	McNaughton, P.	Wilson, G. I.

MASTER MASONS.

Allen, R. W.	Farr, E.	Oakley, N. L.
Anderson, A.	Forsberg, C. G.	Painton, F. J.
Archer, W. C.	Franklin, J. L.	Proctor, Thos.
Ashworth, E. B.	Gibson, W. T.	Ralph, Wm.
Beaty, J.	Gray, Thomas	Ramsdall, J. H.
Bell, H. A.	Hanna, J. J.	Roberts, Samuel
Bell, Thos.	Harrison, H. C.	Scott, Thos.
Bell-Irving H.	Haywood, V. W.	Scott, S.
Boyd, Thos. H.	Hillier, Chas.	Skiffington, G. H.
Brown, J. T.	Hooper, W. M.	Smith, J. B.
Buckley, H.	Kerfoot, W. J. B.	Smith, H.
Burdie, W. D.	Leslie, Jas.	Smith, W. S.
Calkins, S. F.	Lewis, H. M.	Smith, George.
Cameron, Joseph	Linton, Andrew.	Solloway, A. E.
Ceperley, H. T.	Lockwood, E.	Southcott, J. J.
Chase, W. H.	Magee, G. E.	Stewart, J. W.
Cook, E.	Matheson, Malcolm	Thompson, Nicholas
Cordener, P.	Middler, Wm.	Trory, Geo. E.
Dinsmore, G.	Munro, Alic	Turnbull, Jas. D.
Douglas, C. S.	Munro, Jno.	Weeks, W. G.
Douglas, J. C.	McCraig, Geo.	Wutzel, C. C. H.
Edwards, R.	McDonald, Wm.	Williams, J.
Edwards, Rev. H. (Hon.)	McFarlane, J. H.	Wood, W. D.
Erickson, E. G.	McKinnon, Thos.	Woods, J. G.
Erwin, W.	McLuckie, J. H. T.	
Evans, W. H.	Nielands, Thos. F.	

DEMITTED.

Colson, C. E.	Harro, P. H. D.	Eggert, Jules
	Hobson, J.	

FELLOW CRAFT MASONS.

Cox, Edward	Japson, J. B.	Miller, Henry.
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MOUNT HEMON LODGE, No. 7—Continued.**ENTERED APPRENTICE MASONS.****Battenbury, F. M.****Lundie, Robert****MASTER MASONS DECEASED.****Van Braemer, J.****Butler, Henry E.****SUSPENDED.****Clarkson, Jos.
Connors, S. R.****McKinnon, Wilson
McVean, H.****Mayne, T. W.****RESTORED.****Eggert, Jules****UNION LODGE, No. 9.****NEW WESTMINSTER.**

Regular Meetings are held on the First Wednesday of each month, at Masonic Hall.

OFFICERS.

Johnson, J. B.....	Worshipful Master	Sharp, R. P... ..	Senior Deacon
Rich, H. N.....	Senior Warden	Brine, Geo.....	Junior Deacon
Scott, J. G.....	Junior Warden	Jones, W. R.....	Steward
Hart, F. J.....	Treasurer	Hughes, J. H.....	Steward
De Wolf Smith, W. A..	P. M.... Secretary	Laidlaw, F.....	Inner Guard
Forrester, J. J.....		Tyler	

PAST MASTERS.

Bennie, Thos.	Grant, Peter	Manson, Wm.
Buie, John	Howay, Wm.	Murray, W. (Hon.)
Charleson, Alex.	Hoy, Henry	Speirs, Jas.
Clute, John S.	Kelly, Robt. B.	Walker, R. E.
Duncan, W. A.	McKercher, Alex.	

MASTER MASONS.

Annandale, T. S.	Elson, Wm.	McBride, R.
Bates, J. C. A.	Fraser, J. D.	McColl, Wm.
Bole, W. Norman	Gilley, W. A.	McNeely, Thos.
Benson, R. F.	Gilley, Jas. R.	McRae, A., Sen.
Bourne, F.	Gray, J. H.	McRae, A., Jr.
Boutillier, F.	Hendry, John	McNeeley, T.
Carter, C. H.	Johnson, Wm.	McGillivray, D.
Chisholm, H. M.	Junkin, I. C.	McNair, Alex.
Coatham, W. C.	Lehman, Isaac	McNair, E.
Cotton, A. F.	Mead, Geo.	Patterson, D.
Coulthard, F. J.	Mills, Joseph	Phillips, J. E.
Croucher, Rev. C.	Morrison, John	Rankin, Jas. V.
Dodd, Wm.	Munn, D. J.	Rickman, R. J.
Douglas, B. (Hon.)	Murchie, D.	Riskie, L. W.
Duncan, J. S.	McBride, A. H.	Robson, F. H.

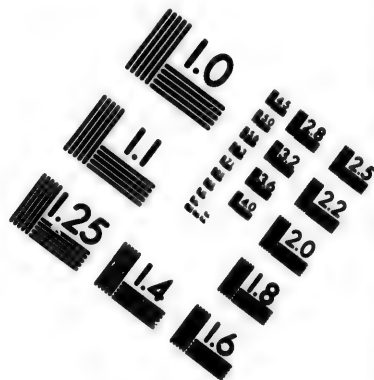
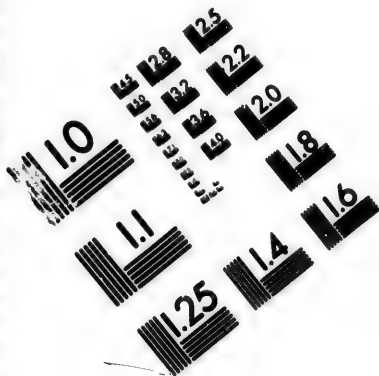
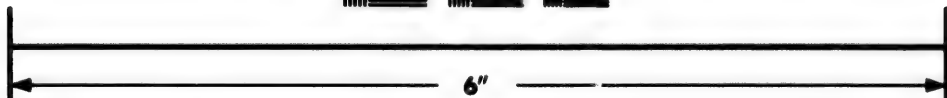
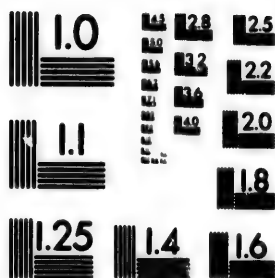


IMAGE EVALUATION TEST TARGET (MT-3)



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2.2
2.5
2.8
3.2
3.6
4.0
4.5
5.0
5.6
6.3
7.1
8.0
9.0
10.0
11.2
12.5
14.0
16.0
18.0
20.0
22.5
25.0
28.0
31.5
36.0
40.0
45.0
50.0
56.0
63.0
71.0
80.0
90.0
100.0

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UNION LODGE, No. 9—Continued

MASTER MASONS—Continued.

Ryall, J. A.
Scott, John T.
Shadwell, H. B.

Shiles, D. A.
Smither, A.
Tingley, S.

Whyte, J. C.
Wiggins, John

DEMITTED.

Campbell, A. O.
Forrin, J. A.
Gibeon, G. F.

Hunter, T. C.
McCulloch, T. C.

Rae, Jas. D.
Townley, C. R.

FELLOW CRAFT MASONS.

Ferguson, A.

ENTERED APPRENTICE MASONS.

Carrie, T.

SUSPENDED.

Finlaison, W. H.

Gilley, Geo. W.

McIntosh, R. W.

KAMLOOPS LODGE, No. 10.

KAMLOOPS, B. C.

Regular Meetings are held on the Second Tuesday of each month, at Masonic Hall.

OFFICERS.

Pownall, Guy F. Worshipful Master
Beattie, Martin..... Senior Warden
Woodside, J. H. Junior Warden
Roadley, Thos., P.M..... Treasurer
Wood, E. Stuart, P.M..... Secretary
Loney, Geo..... Direc. of Ceremonies

Barnhart, P. A..... Senior Deacon
Meldrum, J. A. Junior Deacon
Carment, J. J..... Steward
Risteon, Geo. F..... Steward
Bunt, Robt..... Inner Guard
Bruce, Hugh..... Tyler

PAST MASTERS.

Bannerman, Jno.
Clarke, S., M.D., P.G.M.
Graham, J. O.

Harlock D.W.H.
Ridley, H. C. M.
Slater, Chas. R

Tunstall, S. J.

MASTER MASONS.

Beattie, J.O.
Bruce, John
Decker, Isaac
Duck, Jacob
Fingland, A.R.
Graham, T. W.
Herchmer, Jno.

Hume, W. R.
Johnson, G.E.
Mara, J. A.
McKay, Jas. A.
McKay, G. C.
McDonald, Hugh
McMorine, Alex.

Noble, A.
Ostrom, A. D.
Roper, W. J.
Ross, M. G.
Serson, J.
Sweeney, Thos.
Wills, W.S.H.

DEMITTED.

Fox, Geo. C.

Skiffington, George H.

FELLOW CRAFT MASONS.

Middleton, Geo.

ENTERED APPRENTICE MASONS.

Nelson, Wm.

MOUNTAIN LODGE, No. 11.

DONALD, B. C.

Regular Meetings are held on the Second Monday of each month, at Masonic Hall

OFFICERS.

Mathie, Jas.....	Worshipful Master	Mack, Jas.....	Senior Deacon
McLeod, John.....	Senior Warden	Baines, C. F.....	Junior Deacon
Elson, W. H.....	Junior Warden	Wilson W. G.....	Steward
Pitts, J. C.....	Treasurer	Stirrett, J. H.....	Steward
Pitts, J. C.....	Secretary	McGinnis, J. A.....	Inner Guard
Spragge, A. G. M.....	Dir. of Ceremonies	Anderson, John.....	Tyler

PAST MASTERS.

Clarke, S. (Hon. Mem.)	Downie, T.	Ruttan, W. S.
	Newman, Wm.	

MASTER MASONS.

Allan, John	King, Lew	Robinson, F.
Anderson, Victor	Lendrum, T.	Russell, E. J.
Bourne, H. J.	Manuel, G. E.	Redgrave, Stephen
Bell-Campbell, Wm.	Marpole, R.	Starke, G. A.
Denman, A. W.	Maclean, D. H.	Summerby, T. G.
Erickson, A.	McArthur, A. E.	Sargent, W. H.
Griffith, J. E.	McLeod, John	Solloway, L. T.
Graham, G. W.	McLean, Angus	Thompson, W. S.
Hobbs, F. E.	Marsh, A. S.	Van Antwerp, W. F.
Hopgood, John	McKay, D.	Wall, W. H.
Jamieson, D.	Patmore, R. W.	Wall, J. B.
Jackson, Fred.	Roe, T. M.	Wright, Jas.

DEMITTED.

Reld, Alex.	Ross, Rev. W. R.
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FELLOW CRAFT MASONS.

Trimble, Edwd.

ENTERED APPRENTICE MASONS.

Parson, H. G.

RESTORED.

McKay, David.



CASCADÉ LODGE, No. 12.

VANCOUVER, B. C.

Regular Meetings are held on the Third Monday in each month, at Masonic Hall.

OFFICERS.

Tisdale, Chas. E.....	Worshipful Master	Buscombe, F.....	Senior Deacon
Watson, H. H.....	Senior Warden	McKay, Robt.....	Junior Deacon
Gatewood, C. H.....	Junior Warden	Wilson, Charles.....	Steward
Macgowan, A. H. B., P.M.....	Treasurer	Tite, J. Reynold.....	Steward
Hartley, F. W.....	Secretary	Bowell, J. M.....	Inner Guard
Tucker, L. Norman.....	Chaplain	Hosker, E.....	Tyler
Miller, Jos. E., P.M.....	Dir. of Cer.		

PAST MASTERS.

Atkins, T. E.	Irvine, James	Penn, R. G.
Black, A. W.	Johnson, L. R., P. G. M.	Seymour, J. R.
Cope, F.	Miller, W. O.	Tracey, Thos. H.
Downie, Wm., P. G. M.	Morrow, Geo. L.	Turner, John
Horne, J. W.	McLaren, E. D.	

MASTER MASONS.

Alexander, R. H.	Crawford, J. G. H.	Leask, John
Allies, A. H.	Creery, A. M. C.	Ledgen, A. Kitt
Apones, R. A.	Crowder, J. S.	Lett, Chas. A.
Atkinson, C. D. T.	Davidson, C. N.	Lewthwaite, W. A.
Atkinson, J.	DeForest, H. J.	Little, James
Auld, Wm.	Diplock, A. B.	Lough, Wm.
Bales, H. H.	Doig, Jas.	Loutit, Jas.
Barnett, Thos. E.	Drake, W. E.	Macaulay, C. H.
Beattie, A. M.	Dragalovich, C.	MacFarlane, J. E. W.
Blackmore, Wm.	Dutcher, G. S.	Mahoney, E. C.
Bissett, A. C.	Ferguson, R. C.	McFarland, J. W.
Bourne, A. S.	Forrest, A. B.	McGillivray, D.
Braid, Wm.	Fuller, Geo. W.	McGregor, D. C.
Breeze, J. D.	Gilmore, H. B.	McKarracher, J. F.
Bridgman, C. E.	Grant, R.	McNab, Allen
Brown, Geo.	Graves, A. M.	McNeill, T.
Brown, H. K.	Gray, C. T.	Mansell, C. B.
Brooklesby, H. A.	Green, Horace	Marshall, D. G.
Brurein, H.	Groer, Wm.	Mathison, D. A.
Burgess, T. H.	Hall, J. D.	Mershon, L. H.
Buxton, Jas. M.	Hammersley, A. St. G.	Milne, John G.
Buxton, S. H.	Heimick, J. B.	Morrison, J. W.
Camble, H. J.	Henderson, Stanley	Murray, J. W.
Campbell, J. G.	Hirschberg, M. H.	McCraney, H. P.
Campbell, John	Hosker, E. J.	McCreery, Jos.
Campion, J. W.	Jaack, J. F.	McDonald, D. L.
Carroll, John T.	Johnson, C. G.	Nicholson, M.
Charleson, D. B.	Johnson, H. M.	Nickson, John J.
Choate, Edward	Jordon, G. A.	Oppenheimer, D.
Christie, W. G.	Keith, Saml.	Pace, W. J.
Clouston, Thos.	Kendall, W. H.	Pierce, Frank H.
Collins, H.	Kent, W. H.	Plumm, Wm.
Connon, H. E.	Kleinberg, E. C.	Prenter, S. L.

CASCADE LODGE, No 12.—Continued.

MASTER MASONS—Continued.

Prescott, J. W.
 Rathgebner, F.
 Righter, P. D.
 Robinson, Alex.
 Robinson, R.
 Rowley, John
 Ryals, A. L.
 Slater, James
 Seymour, J. R.
 Shelton, A. E.

Slason, T. H.
 Spencer, O. L.
 Sprague, W. T.
 Sterling, David
 Steward, D. McG.
 Tiffin, J. B.
 Tilley, C. S.
 Timberlake, F. S.
 Turner, H. H.
 Underwood, P.

Vieh, G. H. A.
 Walker, T. H.
 Watson, J. H.
 Weld, O.
 White, Joseph
 Weddecumbe, H. T.
 Williams, John
 Williams, James
 Wilson, James
 Winch, R. V.

DEMITTED.

Lobley, J. H. V.
 Murray, J. W.

McFarlane, J. A.
 Mackintosh, W. D.

Watts, Wm.

FELLOW CRAFT MASONS.

Troyman, Henry.

ENTERED APPRENTICE MASONS.

Cowan, Geo. H.

MASTER MASONS DECEASED

Corrigan, G. D.

SUSPENDED.

Baultbee, John
 Beckingsale, D. L.

Draper, A. W.

Hopkirk, H.

SPALLUMCHEEN LODGE, No. 13.

ARMSTRONG, B. C.

Regular Meetings are held on the Saturday on or before the Full Moon of each Month.

OFFICERS.

Fletcher, T. W.....	Worshipful Master.	Pelly, R. S.....	Secretary
Kenny, Noah H.....	Senior Warden.	Hamill, John, P. M.....	Senior Deacon
Hassard, Frank.....	Junior Warden.	Hamilton, Wm.....	Junior Deacon
Wood, Robert.....	Treasurer.	Clinton, Thos.....	Inner Guard
Laur, Jacob.....	Tyler.		

PAST MASTERS.

Costerton, C. F.

McLeod, Norman

Rashdall, George Herbert

MASTER MASONS.

Armstrong, Robt.
 Barnes, Fred'k
 Brown, John D.
 Fenton, Wm. J

Forbes, A. F.
 Hall, Wm.
 Keys, Hugh
 Lambley, Charles

McDonald, Archibald
 McLeod, John
 Perry, C. E.
 Wright, James Milton

HIRAM LODGE, No. 14.

COURETNAY, B. C.

Regular Meetings are held on the Saturday on or before Full Moon of each Month.

OFFICERS.

Cook, F. I.....	Worshipful Master	Beckonsell, Thos.....	Senior Deacon
Holmes, J. B.....	Senior Warden	Grieve, J. W.....	Junior Deacon
Stewart, H.	Junior Warden	Muschamp, E.....	Steward
Berkeley, John R.....	Treasurer	Viles, Wm.....	Steward
McConnell, R.S.....	Secretary	Gillmore, Robt.....	Inner Guard
Watkin, Robert.....	Dir. of Ceremonies	Piercy, J.....	Tyler

PAST MASTERS.

Clinton, G. W.	Grant, Robt.	McKim, Jas.
Grant, Alexander	Mathewson, W. A.	

MASTER MASONS.

Brown, Thos.	Grant, Kenneth	Read, G. H.
Cavins, Thos.	Howe, Geo.	Reid, Wm.
Cessford, Robt.	McAllen, Wm. J.	Robbins, F. W.
Cliffe, S. J.	McGregor, H.	Roseborough, Thos.
Cowie, Alex.	Mitchell, Wm.	Sargent, J.
Edwards, Thos.	Moore, J. C.	Sargent, Stephen
Graham, Robt.	Piercy, Thos. H.	

DEMITTED.

Whyte, Jas.

KOOTENAY LODGE, No. 15.

REVELSTOKE, B. C.

Regular Meetings are held on the Third Monday in each month.

OFFICERS.

Temple, Chas. Hy....	Worshipful Master	Johnson, Herbert O.....	Senior Deacon
Crage, Wm. F.....	Senior Warden	Kellie, John M.....	Junior Deacon
Lee, Wm. J.....	Junior Warden	Mesley, Fred.....	St ward
Robinson, Dan.....	Treasurer	McCarty, Florence.....	Steward
Smyth, Hugh.....	Secretary	Barber, Guy J.....	Inner Guard
Coursill, Henry N....	Dir. of Ceremonies	Cummings, Alex C.....	Tyler

PAST MASTERS.

Fraser, Fred.	Bourne, H. J
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MASTER MASONS.

Donnelly, Hamilton	Kegler, Frank T.	Randall, Arthur
David, Morgan	Paul, Alexander	Ross, Wm. E

DEMITTED.

Howson, Robt.	Kirkup John	Procanier, Chas. A
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ENTERED APPRENTICE MASONS.

Hanbury, Herbert J.

PACIFIC LODGE, No. 16.

MISSION CITY, B. C.

Regular Meetings are held on the Wednesday on or immediately preceeding Full Moon of each month.

OFFICERS.

Bond, E.....	Worshipful Master	Jones, E. T.....	Junior Deacon
York, L. C.....	Senior Warden	Hannah, S.....	Steward
Baies, J.....	Junior Warden	French, H. B.....	Steward
Paris, E.....	Treasurer	Stewart, W.....	Inner Guard
Downes, T. L., I. P.M.....	Secretary	Keeves, James.....	Tyler
Esplen, R. J.....	Senior Deacon		

PAST MASTERS.

McKay, D.	Shook, M. F.	York, A.
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MASTER MASONS.

Barker, J.	Gourley, R.	McTaggart, G. A.
Barry, C.	Jewell, G. G.	Nicholls, T. H.
Blair, W. A.	Morrison, M.	Rabbling, T. H.
Choate, Z.	Munroe, A.	Smith, Saml.
Clare, W. F.	McDonald, R. R.	Stewart, G.
Cunningham, R. S.	McFarlane, J. C.	Stewart, T.
Duncan, A.	McGillivray, W.	Plumridge, I.
Gourley, J.	McMillan, H.	

DEMITTED.

Schofield, J. H.

FELLOW CRAFT MASONS.

Catherwood, J. A.	Webb, J.
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ENTERED APPRENTICE MASONS.

Pratt, F. W.

SUSPENDED.

Bain, A.	Hogg, W.	Munroe, F.
Curtis, G.	Long, R.	Wellington, C.
Fraser, J.		

KING SOLOMON LODGE, No. 17.

NEW WESTMINSTER, B. C.

Regular Meetings are held on the Second Tuesday of each month.

OFFICERS.

Lewis, L. A.....	Worshipful Master	Vanstone, W. E.....	Senior Deacon
Armstrong, T. J.....	Senior Warden	Brine, A. J.....	Junior Deacon
Boggs, G. W.....	Junior Warden	Miller, Wellington.....	Steward
Howay, F. W.....	Treasurer	Campbell, John A.....	Steward
Nichie, Geo.....	Secretary	Kirk, H. T.....	Inner Guard
Scouler, Rev. Thomas.....	Chaplain	Forrest, J. J. (not a member).....	Tyler

KING SOLOMON LODGE, No. 17.—*Continued.*

PAST MASTERS.

Buie, John (Hon. member)	Fraser, Alex. M.	McAskill, M.
Cunningham, Geo.	Manson, Wm. (Hon. mem.)	Shirley, J. H.

MASTER MASONS.

Ballantyne, J. B.	Gifford, Thos.	McLean, J. M.
Beale, H. D.	Gowan, Rev. H. H.	Nelson, N.
Campbell, Wm.	Hodge, G. C.	Sampson, T.
Currie, D. P.	Marshall, B.	Strople, N. S.
Carty, John	Munn, L. G.	Technor, H. C.
Fisher, C. C.	McLennan, M. D.	

DEMITTED.

Brown, B. B.	Creighton, J. W.
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FELLOW CRAFT MASONS.

Cooksley, P. J.	Foulde, P. J.
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ENTERED APPRENTICE MASONS.

Falding, W. H.	McDonald, Hugh	Macfarlane, R. M.
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DOMIC LODGE, No. 18.

NANAIMO, B. C.

Regular Meetings are held on the Third Tuesday of each month.

OFFICERS.

Davis, Lewis T.	Worshipful Master	Meakin, Fred. C.	Senior Deacon
Pleace, John H.	Senior Warden	Anderson, Alex. C.	Junior Deacon
Morton, Wm. H.	Junior Warden	McKecknie, Robt. E.	Steward
Conner, M. R.	Treasurer	Robie, H. J.	Steward
Perkins, W. H. S., P. M.	Secretary	Wylie, John	Inner Guard
Maitland, Rev. R. R.	Chaplain	Vance, John, (Hon. member)	Tyler
Crosson, James.	Director of Ceremonies		

PAST MASTERS.

Algar, James	Young, F. McB.	Yull, S. B.
Haslam, Andrew		

MASTER MASONS.

Alexander, Dalton	McCulish, Neil	Richardson, T.
Dawson, Henry	McRae, Rev. D. A.	Stickles, C. H.
Davis, A. A.	McRae, Rod.	Tagart, J. E. R.
Dempsey, Hugh	McKinnon, Alex. T.	Thompson, Adam
Evans, Robt.	McKinnel, David	Walmsley, M.
Green, Alfred	Morris, W. E.	White, John
Kelly, W. J.	McGregor, James	Yarwood, E. M.
Morrow, Hugh.	Nees, Jacob	Young, W. A.
Mills, Thomas	Prager, E. A.	

DORIC LODGE, No. 18.—*Continued.*

FELLOW CRAFT MASONS.

Thompson, John A.

Dobeson, Thomas

ENTERED APPRENTICE MASONS.

Davidson, Joseph E.

MASTER MASONS DECEASED.

Honeyman, Charles

EXPELLED.

Badcock, W.

IONIC LODGE, No. 19.

CHILLIWHACK, B. C.

Regular Meetings are held on the Friday on or before the Full Moon, monthly.

OFFICERS.

Mellard, S.....	Worshipful Master	Pelly, J.....	Senior Deacon
Cawley, S. A.	Senior Warden	Jackman, W. T.....	Junior Deacon
Gillanders, A. H.....	Junior Warden	Ferris, W. F.....	Steward
Veddar, A. S.....	Treasurer	Lindell, A. F.....	Steward
Paialey, L. W.....	Secretary	Bromley, J.....	Inner Guard
Logan, J. A.....	Chaplain	Ashwell, Geo. H. W.....	Tyler

PAST MASTERS.

Reeves, C. B.

MASTER MASONS.

Campbell, Jno. A.	Johnston, I.	Rose, Wm. A.
Collinson, H. H.	McRae P. R.	Sharpe, T. A.
Cruikshanks, Alex A.	Nelson, A. M.	Tretheway, A
Dickson, W. H.	Nowell, Reuben	Wood, W. M.
Driscoll, A.		

DEMITTED.

Lundy, G. T.

ENTERED APPRENTICE MASONS.

Atkinson, John L.

McBeath, Donald

McGillivray, Donald

MINIAM LODGE, No. 30.

VERNON, B. C.

Regular Meetings are held on the Thursday on or before Full Moon of each Month at Masonic Hall.

OFFICERS.

Norris, Leonard.....	Worshipful Master	Billings, Fred.....	Secretary
Taylor, R. N.....	Senior Warden	Highman, John, P. M.....	Chaplain
Simms, Chas. D.....	Junior Warden	Muir, Alex.....	Senior Deacon
Martin, J. M.....	Treasurer	Cunningham, Geo.....	Junior Deacon

PAST MASTERS.

Burnyeat, J. P.	Venn, A. J.	Megraw, Ainsley.
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MASTER MASONS.

Germaine, W. L.	Poole, Alfred	Reinhard, W.
McIntosh, H.	Postill, W.	Short, C. A.

DEMITTED.

Fierhillier, Milton	Baldwin, W. C.
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FELLOW CRAFT MASONS.

Cutler, Ira

SUSPENDED.

Pettit Fredk. W.

ST. JOHN'S LODGE, No. 21,

WELLINGTON, B. C.

Regular Meetings held on the first Saturday of each month.

OFFICERS.

Stephenson, David....	Worshipful Master	Sharp, Arch.....	Junior Deacon
Bald, William.....	Senior Warden	Hornby, J.....	Steward
Mitchell, Geo.....	Junior Warden	Hughes, H.....	Steward
Matheson, Murdock.....	Treasurer	Wilson, David.....	Inner Guard
Hawes, F. W.....	Secretary	Vance, Jno.....	Tyler
Norcross, J. E.....	Senior Deacon		

PAST MASTERS.

Frame, John, (honorary member)	Stewart, Wm.
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MASTER MASONS.

Armstrong, S.	Eberts, D. W.	Frame, J.
Bailey, Richard	Edwards, J. D.	Fraser, T. C.
Bryden, John W.	Fisher, Fred. C.	Gear, R.

ST. JOHN'S LODGE, No. 21.—Continued.

MASTER MASONS—Continued.

Gillespie, John	McKenzie, Jas. A.	Scott, J. H.
Haigh, John	McLaughlin, J.	Sharp, Alex.
Hainburger, Moses	McLeod, Angus W.	Trites, Geo. B.
Hay, R.	McMillan, Henry	Wasson, N. J.
Hygh, George E.	McMurtrie, A. J.	Woodhouse, N.
Kilpatrick, Wm. R.	Merman, Emil J.	Young, John
Matthews, John	Patterson, D.	
McCrae, John	Rumsby, James	

ENTERED APPRENTICE MASONS.

Jeffries, Joseph

ACACIA LODGE No. 22.

MOUNT PLEASANT, VANCOUVER, B. C.

Regular Communications are held on the First Saturday of each month.

OFFICERS.

Brydone-Jack, W. D.	Worshipful Master	Michell, T. Jr.	Senior Deacon
Stewart, A. C.	Senior Warden	Jamieson, G. W.	Junior Deacon
Rickers, J. W.	Junior Warden	Wells, M. R.	Steward
Bowser, Frank	Treasurer	Doherty, I. W.	Steward
Henderson, H. M.	Secretary	Moorcroft, Albert	Inner Guard
Clinton, Rev. H. G. F.	Chaplain	Hicks, V.	Tyler
Morris, J. M.	Director of Ceremonies		

PAST MASTERS.

Yates, C. F.

MASTER MASONS.

Adams, H. G.	Fetherson, R. D.	Little, Mark
Armstrong, A.	Gosse, Mark	Michell, T. Sr.
Bethune, Alexander	Harris, D.	McKinnon, D.
Christie, F. L.	Hunter, Robert	Perry, Henry H.
Corrigan, F.	Johnson, John	Saunders, Charles
DePencier, Henry	Kay, J. B.	Stretch Thomas P.
Duncanson, Thomas	Leonard, George Clayton	Tidy, Thomas
Eligh, William	Lillie, Thomas	Westcott, W. S.

DEMITTED.

Clayton, George Leonard	Gavin, John J.
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ENTERED APPRENTICE MASONS.

Hibbert, John	Griffiths, Benjamin	Stirrett, A. C.
Morrow, J. W.		

MASTER MASONS DECEASED.

Suckling, Henry W.

SUSPENDED.

Cooper, John.	Manson, Andrew	McAllister, John, P. M.
Hobson, Wm.		

NELSON LODGE No. 23.

NELSON, B. C.

Regular Communications the First Wednesday of each month.

OFFICERS.

Turner, John A.....	Worshipful Master	Pollard, W. B.....	Senior Deacon
Jowett, W. A.....	Senior Warden	Hodgins, A. E.....	Junior Deacon
Arthur, E. C.....	Junior Warden	Shaw, S. P.....	Steward
Holt, G. V.....	Treasurer	Irvine, Fred.....	Steward
Brown, Edward V.....	Secretary	Driscoll, J. J.....	Inner Guard
Love, Jas. H.....	Director of Ceremonies	Spencer, G. W.....	Tyler

PAST MASTERS

Hamilton, John

Fletcher, Frank

MASTER MASONS.

Bell, John	Kirkpatrick, John A.	Stanley, G.
Clark, D.	Marks, A. J.	Richardson, Geo. W.
Dover, Jacob	Newton, W. N.	Robson, G. R.
Dundee, Charles	Nolan, J. H.	Teetzel, W. F.
Johnstone, Geo.	Preston, Jno.	Waterman, C. A.

DEMITTED

Taylor, G. N.	McAnn, C. W.	Fletcher, A. M.
Robinson, W. P.		

ENTERED APPRENTICE MASONS.

Dewar, Jno. A.	Scully, M.
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UNITED SERVICE LODGE, No. 24.

ESQUIMALT, B. C.

Regular Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each Month.

OFFICERS.

Muir, A. C.....	Worshipful Master	Tyrrell, J. D.....	Junior Deacon
Beatley, J. J....	Senior Warden	Bamsey, A.....	Steward
Geake, H. J.....	Junior Warden	Bonner, W. H.....	Steward
Perkins, G. C.....	Treasurer	Nokes, Chas.....	Inner Guard
Bailey, F. J.....	Secretary	Hammond, Chas.....	Tyler
Sharp, Rev. Cato Ensor.....	Chaplain	Price, B. J.....	Organist
Barber, W.....	Director of Ceremonies	Fox, A. E.....	Asst. Dir. of Ceremonies
Tuck, W.....	Senior Deacon		

PAST MASTERS.

Hickey, Geo.

MASTER MASONS.

Andrews, J., Hon.	Fuller, William	Mills, W. A.
Brown, A. S.	Genner, G. W.	Olford, R. E.
Bainbridge, R. T.	Goodwin, Wm. S.	Paul W. B.
Berry, H.	Hammond, H. E.	Phillips, G.
Conway, Edward	Henwood, I. J.	Partington, G. H.

UNITED SERVICE LODGE, No. 24.—Continued.

MASTER MASONS—Continued.

Collingwood, H.
Cleave, R. C.
Day, John E.
Doddridge, J. W.
Downs, T.

Hayman, W. J.
Hammond, M. H.
Isbister, Jas.
Logan, Hugh
Miligan, J.

Piper, T.
Slow, Will A.
Verral, H. J.
Wrate, Jas. W.
Wimble, T. W.

DEMITTED

Bliss, W. H.
Chalmers, W. F.
Emptage, A.
Eades, F. E.
Fayrer, Wm. G.
Glen, Chas.
Gillies, Wm. A.
Hughes, J.

Hopking, J.
Hoare, W. H.
Lyne, W.
McKnight, D.
McLellan, A.
Nye, W. H.
Norton, W.

Price, R.
Scott, Wm.
Stroud, J. T.
Smyth, J.
Sims, G. W.
Siggers, S. C.
Williams, J. A.

KASLO LODGE, U. D.

KASLO, B. C.

Regular Meetings are held on the first Monday of each month.

OFFICERS.

Green, Robert F.....	Worshipful Master	Strathearn, Robt.....	Senior Deacon
Byers, Hamilton.....	Senior Warden	Goodenough, Arthur Wm..	Junior Deacon
Procunier, C. Aolt.....	Junior Warden	Fletcher, Archibald McL.....	Steward
McIntosh, Jno. F.....	Treasurer	Cameron, H. Alex.....	Steward
Chipman, E. E., F. M.....	Secretary	Wing, S. C.....	Inner Guard

PAST MASTERS.

Henry, John, Jr.

MacGregor, Duncan C.

MASTER MASONS.

Becker, Edward
Caldwell, Jno. A.
Cameron, R. R.
English, William
Ewart, Robert
Geigerich, Henry

Green, Samuel
Henderson, R. S.
Jackson, Henry P.
Marshall, A. S.
McAnn, Chas. W.
MacDowell, H. E.

MacMillan, A. J.
MacMillan, Danl. E.
McMillan, Duncan
Scott, A. J.
Wells, Thomas Calvin
Yull, Robert W.

DEMITTED.

Deacon, Jas. A.

MacKenzie, A. A

FELLOW CRAFT MASONS

Wells, E. E

ENTERED APPRENTICE MASONS.

Barnfather, W. R.

King, Grant

CORINTHIAN LODGE, U. D.

ROSSLAND, B. C.

Regular Meetings are held on the first Thursday in each month.

OFFICERS.

Raymer, H. J.	Worshipful Master	McDonald, R. C.	Senior Deacon
Taylor, Geo. N.	Senior Warden	Fisher, J. C.	Junior Deacon
Bigelow, Jesse A.	Junior Warden	Rammelmeyer, E.	Steward
Kirkup, Jno.	Treasurer	Thomas, L.	Steward
McKenzie, N. A.	Secretary		

PAST MASTERS.

Raymer, H. J.

MASTER MASONS.

Bell, Jno.	Hodge, G. C.	McKeller, D.
Blue, Lewis	Martin, Wm.	Moynahan, J. J.
Carver, B.	May, J. F.	Shaw, S. P.
Dunn, Wm. Norris	McCraney, H.	Smith, A. W.
Forin, J. H.		

FELLOW CRAFT MASONS.

Harris, Wm. J.

ENTERED APPRENTICE MASONS.

Saunders, E. D.

Kelley, E. J.

CUMBERLAND LODGE, U. D.

UNION, B. C.

Regular Meetings are held on the first Saturday of each month.

OFFICERS.

Ferguson, W. B.	Worshipful Master	Grant, Alex.	Dir of Ceremonies
Sharp, Kendrick.	Senior Warden	Irwin, Thomas.	Senior Deacon
McGregor, Henry.	Junior Warden	Cassford, Robert.	Junior Deacon
Mitchell, Matthew.	Treasurer	Reid, James.	Inner Guard
McKim, James.	Secretary	Paulson, John.	Tyler

PAST MASTERS.Clinton, Geo. W.
McKim, James

Grant, Alex.

Abrams, James

MASTER MASONS.

Giddings, John B.	Mounce, Lewis	Robertson, John
McFayden, Neil	Stevenson, David	Rogers, John
Mitchell, William		

ENTERED APPRENTICE MASONS.

Edwards, Richard P.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

....TO....

GRAND LODGE.



June, 1896.

To the M. W. Grand Lodge, A. F. & A. M., British Columbia:—

Your Committee on Foreign Correspondence fraternally beg to submit their fourth annual report.

The Proceedings of Sister Grand Lodges have been carefully reviewed and such matter as we considered of interest to the Craft in our Jurisdiction has been embodied herein; for particulars we refer you to the appendix.

No documents or questions have been submitted to us by the M. W. Grand Master, and in consequence we have no special reports to make.

We can find nothing that will justify us in recommending the recognition of the Grand Orient of Hayti.

Fraternally,

MARCUS WOLFE, P. G. M.

Chairman.

W. A. DEWOLFE SMITH.

REPORT

—ON—

Foreign Correspondence

1896.

Grand Lodge Proceedings Reviewed.

ALABAMA	1895	MARYLAND	1895
ARIZONA	1895	MASSACHUSETTS	1895
ARKANSAS	1895	MICHIGAN	1896
CALIFORNIA	1895	MINNESOTA	1895
CANADA	1895	MISSISSIPPI	1895
COLORADO	1895	SOUTH AUSTRALIA ..	1895
CONNECTICUT	1896	SOUTH CAROLINA ...	1895
DELAWARE	1895	SOUTH DAKOTA.....	1895
DIST. OF COLUMBIA..	1895	TENNESSEE	1895
ENGLAND	1895	TEXAS.....	1895
FLORIDA	1895	MISSOURI	1895
GEORGIA.....	1894	MONTANA	1895
IDAHO.....	1895	NEBRASKA	1895
ILLINOIS	1895	NEVADA	1895
INDIANA	1895	NEW BRUNSWICK...1895	
INDIAN TERRITORY..	1895	NEW HAMPSHIRE...1895	
IRELAND.....	1896	NEW JERSEY	1896
IOWA	1895	NEW MEXICO.....	1895
KANSAS	1896	NEW SOUTH WALES.1895	
KENTUCKY	1895	NEW YORK (included	
LOUISIANA	1895	in our report of	
MAINE	1895	1895)	1895
MANITOBA	1895	NEW ZEALAND.....	1895

NORTH CAROLINA . . . 1896	RHODE ISLAND 1895
NORTH DAKOTA . . . 1895	UTAH 1896
NOVA SCOTIA 1895	VERMONT 1895
OHIO 1895	VICTORIA 1895
OKLAHOMA 1895	VIRGINIA 1895
OREGON 1895	WASHINGTON 1895
PENNSYLVANIA 1895	WEST VIRGINIA . . . 1895
PRINCE EDW'D ISL'D. 1895	WISCONSIN 1895
QUEBEC 1895	WYOMING 1895

Without permission, but with many thanks to Bro. Geo. B. Edwards, F. C. writer of the G. L. of New Jersey, we have taken the liberty of reproducing herewith his reports on the Grand Lodges of Victoria, South Australia, New Zealand, New South Wales and England. The Proceedings of Indiana, Louisiana, Minnesota and Oregon not having been received by us, and to make our Report complete have copied (with thanks) reports made on these by Bro. Edwards (New Jersey).

MARCUS WOLFE, P.G.M., *Chairman.*

Date of Organization and Meeting of Grand Lodges.

Alabama.....	June 14, 1821....	First Monday in December.
Arizona.....	March 25, 1882....	Second Tuesday in November.
Arkansas.....	February 22, 1832....	Fourth Tuesday in November.
British Columbia...	Dec. 26, 1871....	Third Thursday in June.
California.....	April 18, 1850....	Second Tuesday in October.
Canada.....	October 10, 1855....	Second Wednesday in July.
Colorado.....	Aug. 2, 1861....	Third Tuesday in September.
Cuba		
Connecticut,	July 8, 1789....	Third Wednesday in January.
Dakota	July 21, 1875....	Second Tuesday in June.
Delaware.....	June 6, 1806....	First Wednesday in October.
District of Columbia.	Dec. 11, 1810....	Second Wednesday in November.
England		Quarterly.
Florida	July 5, 1830....	Third Tuesday in January.
Georgia.....	Dec. 16, 1786....	In October.
Idaho.....	Dec. 16, 1867....	Second Tuesday in September.
Illinois.....	1840....	First Tuesday in October.
Indiana	January 12, 1818....	Tues. after fourth Monday in May.
Indian Territory	Oct 5, 1874....	First Tuesday in November.
Iowa	January 8, 1844....	First Tuesday in June.
Ireland		Quarterly.
Kansas.....	March 17, 1850....	Third Wednesday in February.
Kentucky	October, 1800....	Third Tuesday in October.
Louisiana.....	July, 1812....	Second Monday in February.
Manitoba	May 12, 1875....	Second Wednesday in February.
Maryland	1783....	Third Tuesday in November.
Massachusetts	1783....	Second Wednesday in December.
Michigan	September 14, 1844....	Fourth Tuesday in January.
Minnesota.....	February 23, 1853....	Second Tuesday in January.
Mississippi	July 27, 1818....	Second Wednesday in February.
Missouri	1821....	Second Tuesday in October.
Montana.....	January 24, 1866....	First Wednesday in October.

New Brunswick	October 9, 1867	Fourth Tuesday in April.
Nebraska	Sept. 23, 1857	Tues. on or im. preceding June 24.
Nevada	January 16, 1865	Second Tuesday in June.
New Hampshire	July 18, 1789	Third Wednesday in May.
New Jersey	Dec. 18, 1786	Third Wednesday in January.
New Mexico	Aug. 6, 1877	Second Tuesday in December.
New York	Sept. 5, 1781	First Tuesday in June.
New South Wales		Quarterly.
New Zealand	1890	Third Wednesday in June.
North Carolina	January 14, 1771	Second Tuesday in January.
Nova Scotia	Feb. 20, 1866	Second Wednesday in June.
Oregon	Aug 16, 1851	Thirteenth day of June.
Ohio	Jan. 7, 1808	Third Tuesday in October.
Pennsylvania	June 20, 1764	Twenty-seventh day of December
P. E. Island	June 24, 1875	Twenty-fourth day of June.
Quebec	Oct. 20, 1869	Fourth Wednesday in January.
Rhode Island	June 25, 1791	Third Monday in May.
Scotland		First February, annually.
South Carolina	March 24, 1787	Second Tuesday in December.
Tasmania		
Tennessee	Oct. 14, 1813	Last Tuesday in January.
Texas	Dec. 20, 1837	Second Tuesday in December.
Utah	Jan. 16, 1872	Third Tuesday in January.
Vermont	Oct. 14, 1794	Second Wednesday in June.
Virginia	May 6, 1777	Second Monday in December.
Victoria (Australia)		Quarterly.
Washington	Dec. 9, 1858	First Wednesday in June.
Wisconsin	Dec. 18, 1843	Second Tuesday in June.
Wyoming	Dec. 15, 1874	Second Tuesday in November.



Alabama.

75TH ANNUAL—MONTGOMERY—3RD DECEMBER, 1895.

James A. Bilbro, Deputy Grand Master, presiding.

M. W. Grand Master, George P. Harrison was at his post the next morning. Our representative not reported present. The Grand Lodge of New Zealand was recognized and accorded exchange of representatives.

The Grand Master was pleased to report:—"Everything Masonic is peaceful and prosperous; we are growing in numbers and in good works, and I feel assured that the moral standard of Masonry is being elevated."

Twenty-nine decisions are recorded, which appear to be in harmony with local laws. I find one of interest to us, as involving a new point.

The Committee on Jurisprudence approved of all decisions excepting No. 25, (in which exception the Grand Lodge refused to concur).

25. Held, that a Master Mason would violate his obligation in knowingly having illicit intercourse with a Master Mason's daughter, even if she was without chastity, and an attempt to do so would be a Masonic offence."

"Your Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence, to whom was referred the decisions of the M. W. Grand Master on questions of Masonic Law, begs leave to report:—

That they have had the same under consideration, and approve of all of the said decisions, except the twenty-fifth, in which it is held that having illicit intercourse with a Master Mason's daughter, who is without chastity, is a violation of the Masonic obligation.

This question was before this Grand Lodge some years ago, and after due consideration, it was held that such an act, while it might be a Masonic offence, was not a violation of that particular portion of the obligation referred to.

We think that the former decision is correct, and therefore recommend that the decision of the M. W. Grand Master in this respect be disapproved."

Report on Correspondence, by Bro. P. J. Pillans, P.G.M. does not include our proceedings, which had not evidently been received in time.

GEO. P. HARRISON,
Grand Master, (re-elected.)

HENRY C. ARMSTRONG,
Grand Secretary.

—:o:—

Arizona

14TH ANNUAL—PRESCOTT—12TH NOVEMBER, 1895.

M. W. R. N. Fredericks, Grand Master.

WHO reported: "The prosperity of our Lodges keep pace with that of the territory." No decisions reported.

FOREIGN RELATIONS.

Our relations with sister Grand Jurisdictions have, during the past year, continued to be pleasant and agreeable; no vexed question has confronted us and no foreign newspaper reports have been able to disturb the even tenor of our way.

Returns show: 11 Lodges with 503 members. The Committee on Jurisprudence reported:—

"In the matter submitted by the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin as to 'the duty of each Lodge to care for its own members,' your committee recognizes that this, which to our Eastern brethren is apparently a new idea, is an established custom with this Grand Lodge and its constituent Lodges.

We believe that every Mason of this Jurisdiction is ready to expend every cent of Lodge or Grand Lodge funds to aid and assist our members when sickness or misfortune overtakes them, and in doing this we do not lose sight of nor repudiate the paramount duty imposed on us as individuals to our obligations, but stand ready to extend a helping hand to all who may apply and whom we may find worthy. That our position, however, may be unequivocally understood, we recommend the adoption by this Grand Lodge of the following:

Resolved, That the Grand Lodge of Arizona, for itself and its constituent Lodges, believes that it is the duty of each Lodge of Masons to take care of its own members and their widows and orphans in distress

wherever they may be; *provided*, that the Lodge furnishing relief shall in no case go beyond the actual necessities without first being authorized to do so by the Lodge from which re-payment is expected." Adopted.

No report on correspondence.

ARTEMUS L. GROW,
Grand Master, Tombstone.

GEO. J. ROSKRUGE,
Grand Secretary, Tucson.

15th Annual, Tucson, 10th November, 1896.

—:O:—

Arkansas.

56TH ANNUAL—LITTLE ROCK—19TH NOVEMBER, 1895.

M. W. M. P. Richmond, Grand Master.

⑥ OUR Representative not present. The G. M. in the course of his address made these *very timely* remarks :—

"The year through which we have just passed has been one of more than ordinary business and financial prostration throughout the entire land, and especially in our own loved State, and Masonry, I am sorry to say, has felt the full force of this unfortunate state of affairs. But, my brethren, I fear this condition of public affairs is not alone to blame for the state of apathy and loss of interest in Masonry, almost everywhere apparent, throughout this Grand Jurisdiction. There are other forces, far more potential for harm, that are surely and rapidly sapping its foundations.

The ballot box is not guarded now with the same jealous care that it was in the days of our fathers. We are entirely too anxious to increase our numbers, and are not careful enough as to the kind of material that is taken from the quarries, and, as a legitimate result, great numbers of men are finding their way into our Lodges who have no sympathy with the objects, teachings and principles of Masonry; are being made Masons in name only; at once become drones in the Masonic hive, and by their conduct and utter disregard of the tenets of our order bring reproach and disgrace upon the craft.

There was a time in the history of Masonry when a Mason's word was, by his brother Mason, accepted with unquestioned faith, and a very appropriate 'side degree' illustrative of that faith, called 'The Master's Reliance,' was often conferred, but its ancient significance and interest have, in a great measure, departed, and it is now but seldom that we find it used. There was also a time when Masons never spoke evil of a brother Mason, but upheld him in his fallen fortune, gave him good counsel and failed not to warn him of approaching danger. But, alas! that time has passed; that custom is no longer the rule, but is fast becoming the exception, and the ties that once bound us

together as a band of brothers, 'among whom no contentions should ever exist, save that noble contention, or rather, emulation, who can best work and best agree,' have become so weakened by constant infraction as to amount to but little more than the fading shadow of a departed substance, until we are fast losing all faith in the promises, protestations and vows of our fellow-men, and are almost ready to adopt the sentiment uttered by poor Bagley when he found himself reduced suddenly from affluence to poverty, and in his hour of direst need, deserted by those in whose promises of such assistance as would have averted his calamity, he had placed unbounded confidence. Bagley wrote:—

'Write on the sands when the tide is low,
Seek the spot where the waters flow;
Whichever a name when the storm is heard—
Pause that echo may breathe the word.
If what you wrote on the sands should last,
And echo is heard 'mid the tempest blast,
Then believe, and not till then,
That there is truth in the vows of men.

Throw a rose on the stream at morn;
Watch at eve for the flower's return;
Drop in the ocean a golden grain,
Hope 'twill shine on the shore again—
If the rose you again behold
If you gaze on your grain of gold,
Then believe, and not till then,
That there is truth in the vows of men.'

My brethren, these things ought not so to be. We must arouse from our apathy, guard well our outer door, and return to the ancient landmarks with full purpose of heart, or, failing in this, the disastrous consequences are not only apparent, but are appallingly imminent. 'Ichabod' will be inscribed upon our altars and Freemasonry will become but as 'a sounding brass and a tinkling cymbal.'

The following are from reported decisions:—

7. *Question.* Has a visiting brother the right to demand to see the Charter of the Lodge visited before he submits to examination?

Answer. He may, doubtless, demand to see the Charter, but such demand would be in bad taste, and the Lodge would be under no obligation to comply therewith, and should refuse to do so.

11. *Question.* Does the fact that a Master Mason who is not in good standing in his Lodge exclude his daughter's chastity from Masonic protection, the father being an expelled Mason?

Answer. It does not. While expulsion deprives a brother of all his rights and privileges as a Master Mason, it does not, therefore, absolve the brethren from their obligation, and the brother who violates the chastity of an expelled brother's daughter, knowing her to be such, is guilty of a violation of his obligation, and upon proper proof of such offence, should be expelled from his Lodge."

G. M. Richmond concludes his very able address with these beautiful words:

"At nightfall the traveller, lost among the mountains, climbs to some lofty eminence, and, scanning the sparkling hosts of the heavens until he finds the eternal compass of the Pole, he fixes his landmarks, lies down to sleep, and on the morrow takes his way and walks in it to home and friends. As that polar lamp hangs forever in the region of

frozen-hearted storms, so let your beams of benevolence and mercy shine brightest in the Arctic solitudes of suffering and of poverty. When the Son of God spake comfort to the widow of Nain, and light to the man blind from his birth, all that was human of Him rose nearer to Divinity, than when He scourged the misers from the temple of God, or pointed the electric finger of destroying prophecy to the golden splendors and national glory of the Jewish people. Let us continually bear in mind the solemn lesson taught us as Master Masons; the philosophy of death, the decay of our bodies; the entombment in the coffin and the grave, which warns us to make haste to do our whole duty as men; that man cannot stand idle all the day long, but must exercise his powers mentally and physically for the welfare of society, and, as the industrious bee, he must lay up in store for the days of winter, or that chilling hour may find him under the hand of disease, in penury and want.

Human misery and oppression are upon all sides of us, and good men, with great, warm hearts and strong hands, are wanted to right up humanity and start it upon the highway thrown up by the Lord for the human family to walk upon, and all Masons who fill the measure and comply with the teachings and with the spirit of Freemasonry, are ever found walking upon that way."

Report on Correspondence includes B. C. for 1894, and was prepared by Bro. Sam H. Davison.

M. W. A. G. WASHBURN,
Grand Master.

R. W. FAY HEMPSTEAD,
Grand Secretary.

57th Annual, Little Rock, 17th November, 1896.

—:o:—

California

A Special Communication of the Grand Lodge was held on September 7th, 1895, for the purpose of performing the last and saddest of Masonic rites, for the late M. W. Wm. C. Belcher, P. G. M. of this jurisdiction.

Grand Orator Eugene N. Deuprey closed his eloquent eulogy in this manner:—

"Where his services were best known was upon the Committee of Jurisprudence in the Grand Lodge of this jurisdiction, and for a period of over twenty-eight years, he held the responsible position of Chairman of that most responsible of committees.

His was a disposition for work, untiring, unceasing. His researches in the line of his profession were not sufficient for him, but he loved good books, and would rather be seated with a friend of like literary tastes

and discuss the character and merits of literary works than probably any other pleasure that could be given to him. He was untiring in his endeavors for those who entrusted their interests to him, until it came at last that he was weary, and his last words were, as they have been communicated to us: "Oh, if I could get into a quiet corner and rest, and never have to try a case again." In these many, many years of his unceasing labors, he felt that there was a time when he was deserving of rest. Rest has come, not as we would have it, but as the Great Architect of the Universe has decreed, and we, the brethren of the Craft, can now only in the agony of our spirit and in the distress of our grief exclaim, 'Farewell!'

— :O: —

46TH ANNUAL,—SAN FRANCISCO,—8TH OCTOBER, 1895.

M. W. James B. Stevens, Grand Master.

WHO was pleased to report:—

"It is with unfeigned satisfaction that I am able to congratulate you upon the prosperity of the Craft within our jurisdiction during the year just closed, and that peace and harmony everywhere prevail.

There have been 2,522 degrees conferred, and we have made a net gain in membership of 391."

Referring to the death of P.G.M. Belcher, he said:—

"For thirty-five years he was a conspicuous figure in the Grand Lodge of California. During all the years of his Masonic life, he gave it patient, faithful and untiring service; it was, in every sense, a labor of love—an individual interest and solicitude for Masonry.

For three years he was Grand Master, and for twenty-eight years Chairman of the Committee on Jurisprudence. In this capacity he did his best and most successful work. To be convinced of this, you have but to take the annual reports and see the evidence of his superior skill. He was the most thoughtful and considerate man for the feelings of others that I have ever known. Whenever he made a ruling on a point of Masonic law, those who may have differed with him well knew that he had but one grand object in view, that of promoting the best interests of the Order he loved; and when he found occasion to differ with a Grand Master upon some decision, he has been known, time and again, to seek a private interview, that he might explain the reason of the adverse opinion he entertained. The kind and paternal interest he manifested on such occasions was most touching. The tender regard for the opinion of his fellow-members on the committee of which he was so long chairman was likewise remarkable. While all were ever ready to defer to his wisdom, his experience and his superior judgment, he never seemed conscious of it, and was never too much hurried to patiently consider and give due weight to the suggestions of his confreres. No one was more courteous or polite in debate, always yielding to his opponent as much as he asked for himself; and though, after due deliberation his views and principles were unchangeable, he never misrepresented nor wronged those who differed with him."

The G. M. reported : " Our relations with other Grand Lodges with which we are in correspondence continue to be of a most fraternal nature."

Returns, 31st July, 1895, show 261 Lodges with 17,431 members.

But few rulings are recorded. I do not quite comprehend this one

"The following case was referred to me by the Master of Athens Lodge, No. 228 :—

At the annual election for officers votes were cast by members who were in arrears for dues, the votes were canvassed and the officers declared elected. Prior to the next stated meeting a brother insists that the Master declare the election illegal.

I decided that the election must stand. While it is true that under the provisions of Section 2, Article IX, of the Uniform Code of By-Laws of Lodges, delinquents should not be permitted to vote, in this case delinquents having been permitted to do so would not, in my opinion, justify the Master in declaring the election illegal."

which appears a clear violation of the Lodge By-Laws. Committee on Jurisprudence dealing with this, reported, (which was adopted)—

"At the annual election for officers in Athens Lodge, No. 228, votes were cast by members who were in arrears for dues, the votes were canvassed and the Master declared the officers elected. Prior to the next stated meeting a brother insisted that the Master should declare the election illegal.

The Grand Master decided the election must stand. In rendering his decision the Grand Master made use of the following language : ' While it is true under the provisions of Section 2, Article IX, of the Uniform Code of By-Laws of Lodges, delinquents should not be permitted to vote, in this case delinquents having been permitted to do so would not justify the Master in declaring the election illegal.'

In this connection, at least referring to the same subject, Woodland Lodge, No. 156, states, that ' previous to voting the Master announced that brethren in arrears for dues were not entitled to vote.' There were twenty-six votes cast and only twenty-two brethren present who had paid their dues. In view of these facts the questions are asked : Was the election legal ? Has the Lodge a right to install the officers so elected ?

In both cases the Grand Master decided that the election must stand. Which determination we think was correct.

It is true that no brother who is in arrears for dues, is entitled to vote, yet we are of the opinion that, in permitting those who are in arrears to vote, the responsibility rests upon the Master solely, and his irregularity should not vitiate the election. We, however, look upon it as a duty, for the benefit of Lodges, to say to all Masters that they should not permit a brother to participate in an annual election unless he is clear of the books."

Report on Correspondence is by Bro. Wm. A. Davies, who adds another valuable contribution to the records of California Masonry. He is a forcible writer, but all in a fraternal, polite manner. British Columbia for 1895 has more than favorable review and comment.

Committee on Jurisprudence reported on the Grand Representative system:—

"We are glad to be able to inform our brethern of Kentucky and Wyoming that we have experienced no 'trouble' or 'vexation' by adopting the Grand Representative system; but, upon the contrary, our intercourse with the Representatives of other Grand Bodies has been of the most cordial and fraternal character. Yet we do not believe that the system is necessary to maintain the comity existing between the Grand Lodges. Still we like the system and would regret to see it abolished.

We respectfully recommend that the commissions accrediting Representatives from this Grand Lodge to the Grand Lodges of Kentucky and Wyoming, by their request, be withdrawn." Concurred in.

Recognition and exchange of Representatives from United Grand Lodge of Victoria were withheld until further particulars were furnished.

The Volume of California's proceedings is a formidable one (560 pps.) and one can hardly do it justice in a cursory review. There are some eminent Masonic scholars, as evidenced by the various Reports of Committees, Orations, Eulogies, and general supervision of the Craft.

EDWARD M. PRESTON,

Grand Master, Nevada City.

GEORGE JOHNSON,

Grand Secretary, San Francisco.

47th Annual, 13th October, 1895.

—:O:—

Canada.

40TH ANNUAL—TORONTO—17TH JULY, 1895.

M. W. Bro. W. R. White, Q. C. on the Throne.

② OUR Representative R. W. Bro. John Creasor, Q. C. was present. The Grand Master was pleased to say :

"The year has been marked by no Masonic event of importance. I have not been called upon to decide any questions of great moment. Our relations with other Grand Lodges have been most cordial, and, within our own jurisdiction, I think I am safe in saying that scarcely a ripple of discord has disturbed that peace and harmony, which seem to have become the normal condition of this Grand Lodge. I am pleased to be able to say that the record for this year as set out in the reports of the D. D. G. M's. of the different districts shows an ever increasing interest in the work and a healthy condition generally existing among the private lodges."

"The subject which I found the most trouble in dealing with was the question of physical qualifications. In all such cases I felt constrained to leave the matter to the W. M. or D. D. G. M., who could personally see whether the candidate could comply with the requirements of the constitution or not. I regret very much that my views on the subject differ slightly from those expressed by some former Grand Masters. I favor a liberal interpretation of the constitution rather than a strict one. I think, if a candidate possesses the necessary mental and moral qualifications, it would be a great hardship if he should be deprived of the benefits of Masonry because he has some slight physical defect which prevents him from absolutely, and in the most perfect manner, complying with all the ceremonies of the work of Grand Lodge."

The following is the first case of the kind that has come under our notice and is worth reproducing :

REPORT OF THE BOARD ON JURISPRUDENCE.

R. W. Bro. Wm. Gibson, on behalf of the Board, presented and read the following

REPORT :

The Board begs to report as follows :

A question was referred to the Board arising out of the objection of a certain candidate, on his initiation, to yield to the prescribed method of administering the obligation, he contending that an affirmation on his part should take the place of our particular form and phraseology, and refusing to seal the obligation in the usual manner.

The Board recognizes that while Masonry respects the conscientious beliefs of all creeds, and condemns no man for or on account of his particular religious opinions, it constrains none to accept its tenets or teachings, and the Board considers the refusal of a candidate to conform to any of our usages, even though he may fancy in but one of the minor details, as much an objection to his reception as though he declined to accede to any other of the rites and ceremonies, and as the candidate in this case refused to conform to the requirements of our ritual the Board recommends that, the W. M. having honestly erred in proceeding with the initiation, no further degrees be conferred on this candidate unless he brings his opinions into harmony with the Masonic view of the questions in difference, and in this recommendation we follow the ruling of the M. W. the Grand Master in a similar case in 1885.

Fraternally submitted.

J. C. HEGLER,

Chairman of Sub-Committee on Jurisprudence.

Returns show 22,805 members, 31st May, 1895.

The Grand Lodge transacts a vast amount of work at its Communications and everything is done with the greatest precision. The reports of the District Deputies alone would make a nice little volume; they show interest manifested and watchful supervision over their respective districts.

Report on Correspondence is as usual by Henry Robertson, P. G. M., who ranks as an able reviewer and Masonic scholar. His reports are always a valuable contribution.

British Columbia for 1894 is included.

M. W. BRO. R. W. WHITE, (re-elected,)

Grand Master. Pembroke.

R. W. J. J. MASON,

Grand Secretary, Hamilton.

41st Annual, Belleville, 15th July 1896.

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Colorado

35TH ANNUAL—DENVER—17TH SEPTEMBER, 1895.

Wm. L. Bush, M. W. Grand Master.

THIS opening remarks were:

"As we look back over the thirty-five years of our existence as a Grand Lodge, we have every reason to feel proud of what has been accomplished. Masonry has grown with the State, Organized in August, 1861, by three Lodges, with a membership of sixty-seven, there are at this time eighty-seven chartered and working Lodges, with a membership of nearly 7000. We can hardly realize that it is but little more than a quarter of a century since bands of hostile Indians were camped within a few miles of this city that stands to-day as the 'Queen City of the Plains.' As late as 1868, Grand Master Teller, in his annual address, expressed a regret that he was unable to visit the Lodges at Pueblo and Canon City, then under dispensation, on account of Indian depredations, making it unsafe to travel. There are at this time three lines of railway between Denver and Pueblo, with the hills and valleys dotted with pleasant farms and prosperous towns and villages. My brethren, much has been accomplished in the short space of thirty years, and with the many and varied resources of our State we can expect a prosperous future both for Masonry and our commonwealth.

It is with great pleasure I can report to you that, with a few exceptions, peace and harmony have prevailed in the Lodges of the jurisdiction during the past year. There have been one or two cases where disturb-

ances have arisen, but these have been amicably adjusted and that friendly and brotherly feeling which should always exist among Masons has been restored.

Our relations with other grand jurisdictions are now, and have been, during the year, of the most friendly and fraternal nature. While the doctrine of perpetual jurisdiction has in some instances caused trouble between Grand Lodges, we have thus far escaped a controversy of this kind. From the report of Grand Masters, I glean that throughout the United States Masonry is prosperous, and despite the financial depression the Fraternity has made substantial progress."

From the eleven decisions (mainly local law) I note the following and quite agree with the Grand Master's reference :

DECISION NO. 4.

Question. Can an Entered Apprentice who has lost his right hand at the wrist in a railroad wreck receive the remaining degrees ?

Answer. No. See Grand Lodge By-Law No. 74.

Referring to decision No. 4, which was made to conform to Grand Lodge By-Law, No. 74, I do not believe it right or just. The By-Law provides that no Lodge shall confer any degree upon a candidate unless he be a perfect man, etc. Requiring a candidate for initiation to be a perfect man physically is right, in my opinion, but when a candidate has received one or more degrees, and through no fault of his is maimed by an accident, there should be no law to prevent his going on and receiving full light in Masonry. The Lodge should be allowed to carry out its part of the contract. I would recommend the modification of By-Law No. 74. so that it can be done.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO BY-LAWS.

Bro. Theodore H. Thomas (86) offered the following, which was referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence :

Resolved, That Grand Lodge By-Law No. 74 be so amended as to read as follows :

No. 74. No Lodge shall confer any degree upon a candidate unless he be a perfect man, having no maim or defect in his body that may render him incapable of learning the art and becoming perfect in the work. But when the candidate has taken the Entered Apprentice Degree, he shall not be denied the privilege of advancing by reason of any accident or misfortune that may have happened him after the conferring of such Entered Apprentice Degree ; Provided, he possesses all other essential qualifications."

The Committee on Jurisprudence reported the following which was adopted.

"That decision No. 4 be approved. In considering this decision, we may also take in connection therewith the recommendation of the Grand Master bearing upon this subject and the proposed amendment to By-Law No. 74, presented by Brother Theodore H. Thomas. Your committee does not wish to be understood as receding from the position taken by this Grand Lodge regarding the physical qualifications of candidates, as enunciated in By-Law No. 74, but we agree with the M. W. Grand Master, that after the candidate has received one or more degrees

he should not be denied the privilege of advancement because he may have been so unfortunate as to have accidentally lost one of his members which has not impaired his faculties, and we recommend that By-Law No. 74 by striking out the word 'any' in the first line thereof, and insert in lieu thereof the words 'the Entered Apprentice.' "

The Grand Master has this to say on

GRAND REPRESENTATIVES.

"The question of Grand Representatives is one that is causing much discussion at the present time. Grand Masters and Committees on Correspondence are each airing their views on the subject. The jurisdictions of Iowa, Pennsylvania, Oklahoma Territory, Tennessee, Washington, Kentucky and Wyoming have abolished the system as being useless. One Grand Master goes so far as to express his 'contempt' for the whole system. If the Grand Representatives would take the trouble to make a report to the Grand Master of the jurisdiction which they represent, at the close of each Grand Lodge session, the object for which they were appointed, viz: 'to cultivate a more intimate and fraternal correspondence and strengthen the ties of brotherly affection,' would be more nearly attained. I have not received a single report from our Grand Representatives near other Grand Lodges during the year. If we depended upon the Representatives themselves for knowledge of their existence, we would never know that we had such an officer. That the system is not a success, I believe is more the fault of the Representatives than the system."

We must compliment Bro. Alphonse A. Burnand on his masterly oration, "A Mason's Duty."

Report on Correspondence is by Bro. L. N. Greenleaf. He is an able Masonic scholar and writer, presenting a review that is not only very interesting but most instructive. It occupies 305 pages, making a valuable volume for any Grand Lodge Library. British Columbia does not appear to have been received in time.

Taken as a whole, the volume of Colorado's proceedings is "good" from start to finish, contains a vast amount of useful, practical information to the Fraternity not only at home but abroad.

It is always a welcome visitor.

WM. D. PIERCE,
Grand Master, Denver.

ED. C. PARMELEE,
Grand Secretary, Denver.

36th Annual, Denver, 15th September, 1896.

Connecticut

108TH ANNUAL—HARTFORD—15TH JANUARY, 1896.

M. W. Henry O. Warner, Grand Master.

OUR Representative, Bro. N. G. Hinckley, present.
The Grand Master's address is an account of his official acts. No decisions are reported.

At the Emergent Communication, held at Wallingford, 25th September, 1895, the Masonic home was dedicated with imposing and appropriate exercises.

Report on Correspondence is by Bro. John H. Barlow, Grand Secretary, being his second, which stamps him an able reviewer and scholar. His argument is to the point, but couched in fraternal and courteous language.

British Columbia for 1895 occupies three pages. We apologize to Bro. Hinckley for reporting him "not present" last year, and glad to know he seldom "misses."

Returns, 111 Lodges, 16,632 Master Masons.

M. W. JAMES H. WELSH,
Grand Master, Danbury.

M. W. JOHN H. BARLOW,
Grand Secretary, Hartford.

109th Convention, New Haven, 20th January, 1897.

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Delaware

89TH ANNUAL—WILMINGTON—OCTOBER, 1895.

M. W. Virginus V. Harrison, Grand Master.

OUR Representative not recorded present.
The Grand Master expressed his views on the appointment of several Grand Representatives.

"I have followed this course because the precedent was established, and not because I am in sympathy with the system. Had I consulted my own feelings in the matter, I should have made no appointments nor acknowledged any from other jurisdictions.

The system, as far as I am able to judge, is of no practical value, a mere matter of form, adding to the labours of the secretaries and to the expense of Grand Lodges without a corresponding return.

In all my experience I have not known a Representative to perform any duty, and indeed I do not know that there is any duty imposed upon them, therefore, to my mind, the system seems to have no excuse for existence.

But as I did not by my own act wish to deprive my successor of any pleasure that might be derived from catering to the vanity of some brother by appointing him to one of these positions of empty honour, I leave the matter in your hands to continue or abolish it."

Of the few decisions reported I extract—

"No. 3, from Hiram Lodge, No. 25.

Please inform us what lawful Masonic information is? Is it necessary for me to sit in a Lodge room with a brother in order to vouch for him, or can a brother who has sat with me in a Lodge and also with a brother in another Lodge say to me, this is a brother Mason, I have sat in a Lodge with him, can I vouch for this brother as being a Mason, or must we examine the brother?

H. N. REED, *Secretary*.

Answer. Information coming to you in the manner you suggest would be 'lawful information,' and you could vouch for the brother without examination."

On the "Wisconsin proposition" he says:—

"October 9, 1894, I received a communication from a committee appointed by the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin, and approved by the M. W. G. M. Brother W. H. Sawyer, touching the question of Masonic relief and suggesting the following proposition:—

'It is the duty of each Lodge to take care of its own members in distress wherever they may be. In cases of its inability to do so, this duty devolves upon the Grand Lodge from which it holds its charter. It being understood that in no case is the Lodge furnishing relief and asking re-imbursement to go beyond actual necessities without express authority from the re-imbursing body.'

I submit this for your consideration, but it seems to me, if we place ourselves in a position that would bind us as a Grand Lodge to be responsible for the return of alms that may be given to a poor and distressed brother in obedience to a fundamental principle, then one of the foundation stones on which our structure is erected crumbles into dust.

On becoming Masons, one of the first lessons we are taught is "Charity." Masonry is a charitable institution and not a beneficial one, therefore when it becomes necessary to relieve a distressed brother, let us do so freely without thought of re-imbursement. The adoption of this 'proposition' in my opinion would reduce our Fraternity to a mere beneficial organization. (The Secretary will read the communication at the proper time)."

We heartily endorse every word of this sound advice.

"Notwithstanding the very depressed condition of business of all kinds, during the past year, we have prospered fairly well, and though we have not added to our numbers to a very great extent, let us hope that the addition has been of a healthy nature.

And here, brethren, permit the following suggestion:

Look well to the outer door, and see to it that no one crosses its sacred threshold save those who are duly and truly qualified; let not sympathy, interest or friendship influence you in admitting to our mystic circle any material that will not add strength to its character.

Let us not be over-zealous in adding to our numbers, because in our zeal we may overlook important defects of character that would not otherwise escape us.

Mankind will judge us by our standard, and that standard is set by the individual character of our members; from external dangers we are free, then let us guard against dangers within.

The strength of a building is not in its size, or the number of stones used in its construction, but in the individual character of each particular stone, therefore in constructing our Mystic Temple let us see to it that each stone that we add to its walls is without flaw or blemish, so that the ravages of time shall not shake its foundation, or the malignant shafts of envy, hatred and malice prevail against it."

Returns show 2039 Master Masons, an increase of 41 for the year.

Report on Correspondence is by Bro. L. H. Jackson; British Columbia does not appear to have been received.

JOSEPH L. CAHALL,
Grand Master, Georgetown.

BENJAMIN F. BARTRAM,
Grand Secretary, Wilmington.

19th Annual, Wilmington, 1st Wednesday of October, 1896.

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District of Columbia

SPECIAL Communication 27th March, 1895 was called to exemplify the several degrees, in charge of the W. Grand Lecturer.

SEMI-ANNUAL, MAY 8TH, 1895.

David G. Dixon, M. W. Grand Master.

OUR Representative not recorded present. The following extract from the report of Committee on Jurisprudence, on the Grand Representative system:—

"The Grand Master of Kentucky has used pretty strong language in expressing his opinion of the Grand Representative system, but your committee sees no just grounds for any expression of 'contempt' for a system which has received the sanction of nearly all the Grand Lodges of the world for the past thirty or forty years, whilst under it very many of the most distinguished Masons of our time now hold or have held commissions as Grand Representatives of other Grand Lodges than their own.

If it be determined by the Grand Lodges generally, or by a majority of them, that the Grand Representative system has not proved useful in any way, but on the contrary, has tended to interfere with rather than promote harmony and fraternal feeling among the grand bodies; if it has failed to do away, in some measure, with that isolation from each other which their individual sovereignty tends to foster, then it has not realized the hopes and intentions of those who were instrumental in instituting it, nor of the many eminent brethren who have given it their sanction.

If such should be the verdict, this Grand Lodge, with the others, can quietly resolve to take no further part in it. But there seems to be no good reason to revile the system or express 'contempt' for it.

As there is no question of Masonic law to be considered in this case, but a mere matter of expediency, and as each member of your Jurisprudence Committee has the honor of holding a commission or commissions as Grand Representative of other Grand Lodges, and feels honored in having been selected as such, and in having been received by this Grand Lodge in that capacity, it follows that they are to be looked upon as interested parties in this matter. They therefore prefer to offer no recommendation, either in favor of or against the longer continuance of the representative system by this Grand Lodge, but would recommend that the matter be referred to a committee of three members of the Grand Lodge, who are not the representatives of any other Grand Lodge, to consider this matter and report at our next annual meeting."

The Committee also reported on the "proposed uniform rules as to jurisdiction over candidates" as proposed by Grand Lodge of Mississippi.

"Your committee believes that the adoption *by all* the Grand Lodges in our country of some uniform rules governing their respective jurisdictions over candidates (if such a thing could be brought about) would result in great good, and that the action of the Grand Lodge of Mississippi, looking to that end, is to be commended. Yet it is by no means apparent that any rules could possibly be framed which would meet with approval by all or even a majority of the Grand Lodges.

"Custom, constitutional provisions, and the jealous regard which each cherishes for its own sovereignty would, we fear, militate against any general agreement. Yet, notwithstanding the difficulties in the way, we may hope that a consummation so much to be desired may eventually be brought about.

The 'uniform rules' submitted by the Grand Lodge of Mississippi are not, in all respects, such as your committee could approve.

In Rule I it will be noticed that when a rejected applicant for the degrees subsequently removes to another jurisdiction and applies there for the degrees, the lodge to which he applies requires the one which rejected him to furnish 'the grounds upon which such rejection was made'; and if the grounds of the objection should be furnished the lodge to which he makes his new petition, 'it shall judge the sufficiency thereof and proceed in its discretion!' If the grounds for the rejection are not furnished within six months, it proceeds with the petition 'as in other cases.'

Your committee fail to see how Rule I could be made operative in this jurisdiction without disregarding the law and usage requiring a secret ballot for all candidates for the degrees. The only answer that one of our lodges could possibly give to an inquiry as to the *cause* of a rejection would be, 'There was a black ball in the ballot-box.'

Rule II will not, in the opinion of your committee, be acceptable to our lodges, as the usage which obtains in this, as well as in most Grand Lodge Jurisdictions, of requesting another lodge to act as proxy in conferring the degrees to which a candidate has been elected, when said candidate removes temporarily or permanently from the jurisdiction, has, we believe, always worked satisfactorily, and until some better arrangement than that suggested in the rules under consideration shall be presented for the action of the Grand Lodge, it would be wiser to continue our present system.

With the greatest respect and fraternal regard for our brethren of the Grand Lodge of Mississippi, your committee feel constrained to recommend that the uniform rules proposed by that Grand Lodge be not adopted."

The Committee's report on Inherent Right of Past Masters in Grand Lodge :

"The amendment to Section 1, Article IV, proposed by Bro. Robert Ball, and referred to your committee, opens up a question which caused much contention and ill feeling among the fraternity in New York between the years 1849 and 1858, causing a schism in the Grand Lodge of that State and the formation of another Grand Lodge, which existed for a period of about nine years, when there was a union of the two, and harmony among the craft in that jurisdiction was happily restored.

The sole question at issue was as to the inherent right of Past Masters of subordinate lodges, individually, to all the rights of membership in the Grand Lodge, including that of voting, as is proposed by the amendment under consideration.

Since the year 1849, in the Grand Lodge of New York, all Past Masters are honorary members for life, having the right to participate in all its deliberations but not, as such, entitled to vote, except in the case

of 'the Past Master of each lodge who shall have last passed the chair thereof,' who, under their law, is an active member with a right to vote.

Your committee know of no Grand Lodge Jurisdiction where all Past Masters of lodges have each an individual vote in their Grand Lodge, though there may be some few Grand Lodges whose laws allow it.

It was argued at the time of the defection in the Grand Lodge of New York, above alluded to, that this power should not be placed in the hands of so large a number of those who are in no wise responsible, either to the fraternity at large or to their respective lodges, as to how they shall vote upon any question. That it would cause inequality of power in the Grand Lodge as between different portions of the fraternity, between lodges which had, perhaps, twenty or more Past Masters, who would vote upon any question affecting their lodges with their own representatives, and those lodges whose Past Masters numbered but two or three, or even less. That it would be unwise and injurious to have so large a body of permanent members for life, of the Grand Lodge, whose votes may control its action and override the votes of the representatives of the lodges and the wishes of the fraternity. 'That a large number of Past Masters, uniting with a small minority of the representatives of the lodges, may control the action of the Grand Lodge and defeat the will of a majority of the representatives of the lodges and of the fraternity.'

Other arguments equally strong and convincing might be cited against giving the Past Masters of lodges individual votes as active members of the Grand Lodge, and those members of the Grand Lodge who desire a more full exposition of this question can find both sides of it most fully discussed in the "History of Freemasonry in New York," which they can obtain from the Grand Lodge Library.

While your committee have every respect for and confidence in the Past Masters of the lodges in this jurisdiction, and believe them to be as intelligent, earnest and "bright" a body of Masons as any that can be found in the world, yet they believe it would be unwise to change the present law in respect to their voting in the Grand Lodge."

British Columbia accords Past Masters (in active membership) membership in Grand Lodge with full voting powers. I can understand in very large jurisdictions such as New York, Pennsylvania, etc., where it makes Grand Lodge very unwieldy to accord all the Past Masters legislative powers, why it is properly confined to representatives.

Annual Communication, 13th November, 1895.

Grand Master Bro. David G. Dixon, who reported the

CONDITION OF THE CRAFT.

"It gives me pleasure to state that notwithstanding the continued depression of business throughout the country the various lodges of this jurisdiction, with perhaps one or two exceptions, are in a prosperous condition, and that peace and harmony, so far as I am aware, prevail within our borders. There has been no contention 'save that noble contention or rather emulation, of who can best work and best agree.'

I have not been called upon to render any decisions upon disputed points. While questions have been submitted to me I do not deem it necessary to report them in detail in this address, as they were in each instance answered by a reference to the constitution of the Grand Lodge or to the rulings of my predecessors."

Report on Correspondence is by Bro. Wm. R. Singleton, being his 26th.

British Columbia had apparently not been received, as it is not included.

M. W. GEORGE W. BAIRD,
Grand Master.

R. W. WM. R. SINGLETON,
Grand Secretary.

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England

THIS Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons held its Quarterly in March, 1895, Brother Rear Admiral Albert Hastings Markham, District Grand Master for Malta, as Grand Master.

The Grand Lodge being opened in form, after some observations by the Acting Grand Master, the nomination for Grand Master was proceeded with. As there is much of historical interest in the remarks of the Brother who made the nomination, a portion is transcribed :—

"Brother Charles Swinfen Eady, LL.D. Q.C., P.G. Steward, P.M. Emulation Lodge, No. 21, London: Most worshipful Grand Master in the Chair and Brethren, it is now my pleasing duty and also my very great privilege to have the honour of proposing for election as Most Worshipful Grand Master for the ensuing year His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. As you all know, this is the twenty-first time the Masons of England have approached His Royal Highness and asked him to accept the position of Grand Master, and in acceding to that request he will confer the highest honour and distinction he is able to bestow on them as members of the craft. May the union between His Royal Highness and the Craft, formed most auspiciously many years since, continue for a long time, and remain with us as long as His Royal Highness shall live. His Royal Highness has conferred great and numerous benefits on the Craft; he has ever taken the greatest interest in the Masonic Charities; the Boys' and Girls' Schools owe much to his constant attention, and the Benevolent Institution is also indebted to his endeavours. Many of us remember that great ceremony a few years

ago, when over £50,000 was subscribed for the benefit of the Girls' School. We know that the new Hall and Wing of the Institution which have since been built, and much of the assistance, the pecuniary benevolence—poured forth on that occasion by the masons of England in support of the Girls' School—must be attributed to the interest His Royal Highness has taken in the Girls' Institution, and the earnest way in which he has exerted himself on its behalf. And when the Hall and Wing were opened we know Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales and her daughters honoured the ceremony in company with His Royal Highness. In the cause of the Boys' School and the Aged Institution we know his Royal Highness has also shown the liveliest interest. I think if the Masons of England were asked for what purpose Masonry exists, and to give some reason for the existence of their Craft, it would be enough for them to refer and point to the great charitable institutions which Masons support. This, it seems to me, and this alone, would form sufficient justification. In the cause of the Charities of the Order and all other matters concerning the Craft His Royal Highness has always exhibited the keenest interest. And not only is this the case with respect to Freemasonry in England, it is also the case with regard to India and other places abroad that he has visited, for he has left there evidence of the extensive interest he has in the Craft. I believe that during the years that he has presided over us the number of Lodges on the English roll has been about doubled. In those twenty-one years about 1,200 Lodges have been added to the list of those which existed when he first occupied the chair. This, I believe, is largely due to His Royal Highness being our Grand Master. His Royal Highness has not only personally evinced an interest in the Craft, but he has also succeeded in interesting others, members of his own Royal Family, and every one brought into contact with His Royal Highness in the success of the Craft.

"I am confident I express the wish of every one when I say that I ask that His Royal Highness may be elected by acclamation our Grand Master.

"R. W. Brother Rear-Admiral Markham, Acting Grand Master:—Brethren, I think after the manner in which the speeches of the proposer and seconder of the resolution have been received, it is not at all necessary for me to put it to the Grand Lodge. I shall therefore now declare His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales duly elected our Grand Master, and I congratulate the Craft on having secured his Royal Highness's services for another year."

Fifteen thousand dollars were donated to individuals, in the cause of charity.

One of the subjects of appeal was from the Master of a Lodge at Singapore, and created considerable discussion. "It is with regard to membership of a Lodge," and comes from the Master, who appeals against the decision of the District Grand Master and the District Board of General Purposes, reversing his decision as Master—that a Brother's resignation of membership in a letter to the Secretary was final, notwithstanding it was withdrawn immediately and

before communication to the Lodge. The decision of the District Grand Master and District Board of General Purposes was affirmed.

At the Annual Grand Festival, held in April, the Grand Master, Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, etc., etc., was proclaimed, and his appointees were invested and saluted.

The Quarterly held in June, 1895, was presided over by Brother William Wither Bramston Beach, Provincial Grand Master of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

At this Communication nearly fifteen thousand dollars were again appropriated for the needy.

Some Changes in the Rules governing Colonial interests were prolific of debate, also others affecting Lodges in general, but of minor consequence.

BRO. ALBERT EDWARD, PRINCE OF WALES,
Grand Master.

BRO. EDWARD LETCHWORTH,
Grand Secretary.

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Florida

SPECIAL communication held 26th August, 1895, in the City of Pensacola for the purpose of laying the corner stone of "Temple Bethel," the Jewish Synagogue in that city. The occasion was one of great interest to all present.

67TH ANNUAL—JACKSONVILLE—21ST JANUARY, 1896.

M. W. James Boyd, Grand Master.

THE death of Past Grand Master Bro. Albert J. Russell, Grand Secretary, was announced, and after opening Grand Lodge his remains were deposited with Masonic and Grand Lodge honors.

Our Representative not recorded as being present.

FOREIGN RELATIONS.

"Nothing has occurred to mar the cordial relations existing between this grand body and her Sister Grand Lodges throughout the world.

The angry war cloud which recently appeared upon the horizon, and threatened disastrous and fratricidal strife between the two great Anglo-Saxon Nations, is happily being rapidly dispelled by the sunlight of a better understanding of the mutual relationship and sympathy of these two great English-speaking peoples, strengthening the desire for peace, and perpetuating the bond of friendship, which nothing but the grossest obstinacy or the most intemperate action should ever strain or break.

There cannot be two propositions strongly antagonistic, and both be right. There must be a center within the circumscribed area of their differences upon which the contending parties should peacefully meet and agree. We feel confident that wise counsels, guided by a sense of right and a just conception and consideration of the sympathies and material interests of these two great branches of a family—united by the ties of blood, and trade and a common tongue—will prevail, and the perplexing problem be satisfactorily solved.

To this end, we extend to our British brethren fraternal greetings."

Returns show 4,349 members.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

"It is with much regret that we have to again apologize to our sister jurisdictions for not having a report from the Committee on Foreign Correspondence this year. The Chairman of that committee, Bro. Russell, was called to the 'Great Beyond' but a short time before the Grand Lodge convened. We have been unable to find any report as prepared by him, and it was then too late for any other member of the committee to prepare one. We trust, under the circumstances, our dereliction in this matter will be overlooked, and hope that next year we will be able to present a full report from that committee."

W. P. WEBSTER, Grand Secretary.

Our deepest fraternal sympathies are extended to the M. W. Grand Lodge of Florida in their affliction, as the loss of an efficient officer, especially Grand Secretary, is deplorable.

M. W. JAMES W. BOYD,

Grand Master, Barton.

R. W. WILBER P. WEBSTER,

Grand Secretary, Jacksonville.

Georgia

109TH ANNUAL—MACON—29TH OCTOBER, 1895.

M. W. John P. Shannon, Grand Master.

THE Grand Lodge was opened in due and ample form in the Master Degree.

Our Representative not reported present.

M. W. John P. Shannon, Grand Master, who in the course of his opening remarks said :—

“Numerically, we may not have increased, but the personnel of the members was never better. The dead branches have been lopped off, and the body of the Masonic Tree is living, growing, and bearing only healthy moral fruit. Good men and true have been added to our ranks, and to-day the eighteen thousand Masons of Georgia stand a band of law-observing, God-fearing men, honored even by those who are ignorant of the mysteries of our Order, but who approve the practical workings of our Ancient Craft. Thus we should ever be a happy, loving society of friends and brothers,

‘Whose powers shed around in the common strife,
Or mild concerns of ordinary life,
A constant influence, a peculiar grace.’ ”

Sixty-seven Dispensations for various purposes had been granted. During the year the Grand Master had occasion to render perhaps two hundred decisions, thirty-one of which are recorded. I find none of special interest or involving any new points.

OTHER GRAND LODGES.

“It is my great pride and pleasure to report to this Grand Communication that the most fraternal relations exist between the Grand Lodge of Georgia and the other Grand Bodies throughout the world who practice the principles of Free and Accepted Masonry. Nothing has occurred to mar in any way the harmony which has so long existed between Georgia and her sister Grand Jurisdictions. Fraternal greetings, kind words and friendly intercourse have marked all correspondence and communications which have occurred during my administration. Peace and harmony prevail throughout the entire world of Masonry, and thus it should ever be, for among Masons there should exist no envy, rivalry, contention, or dissension, but only that laudable ambition of ‘who can best serve and who best agree.’ ”

The Grand Master’s address throughout shows a close attention to his duties, which in this jurisdiction are no sinecure, and is a very able, instructive document.

A special session of Grand Lodge was held for the purpose of allowing the District Deputies to exemplify the

work in the Third Degree. A capital idea this, and would recommend it to our Grand Lodge.

Returns show 405 Lodges, with 16,838 members : net gain 603.

Addresses by several eminent members of Grand Lodge on the occasion of unveiling the memorial ablet to the memory of P. G. M. John S. Davison. They are truly most beautiful in language and sentiment, showing in what high esteem their deceased Brother was held.

The Foreign Correspondence Report is by Bro. W. S. Ramsay in his usual happy vein. British Columbia for 1894 appears in the Review, having more than favourable notice and comment.

Again we close Georgia with an immense degree of gratification and pleasure always derived from their copy of Proceedings.

Adieu until 1896.

M. W. JOHN P. SHANNON, (re-elected)
Grand Master, Elberton.

R. W. ANDREW M. WOLIHIN,
Grand Secretary, Macon.

110th Annual, Macon, 27th October, 1896.

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Idaho

28TH ANNUAL—BOISE—10TH SEPTEMBER, 1895.

A. B. Clark, M. W. Grand Master.

OUR Representative not recorded present. The Grand Master was pleased to report "that peace and harmony prevail throughout this Grand Jurisdiction.

Brethren of British Columbia, does not the following strike home ?

"It is a useless parade, my brethren, for us as Masons to talk of the subjection of irregular passions when seated within the walls of the lodge room, if we allow them to triumph in our intercourse with the world. There is some dignity attached to being a Free Mason, and to maintain that dignity should be our constant care.

In visiting among the constituent lodges I find that there is a disposition on the part of many to leave the work for others to do. They visit the Lodge on special occasions, but the *business* of the lodge, the work, the real burden, must rest on some one. They don't seem to have thought just who, they are *busy*, cannot give up their time to lodge work. To such brethren I have this to say: You are drones in the hive of Masonry, and unworthy to share in our associations. Every man who has been made a Mason owes the craft a debt, and there are too many, my brethren, who are not even paying the interest on that debt. What can a brother rightfully expect at the hands of Masons if he spends his time in idleness when his lodge needs his assistance? To my mind, he stands in the same relation to his lodge as does a degenerate son to a righteous parent, he becomes masonically pauperized by his own inaction."

Past Grand Masters Wickersham and Stevenson were called from "their labors on earth and have joined the innumerable hosts in the Sovereign Grand Lodge above," to whose memory the Grand Master paid glowing tribute.

Decisions reported contain none necessary to extract, being of local interest only.

Idaho has an Orphans' Fund of \$25,000.

Returns show 27 Lodges with 1084 Master Masons.

Report on Correspondence is by Bro. Chas. Stevenson (who, by the way, is also the Grand Orator and Grand Secretary). This is his eighth report. British Columbia for 1894 has its place.

ISIDORE S. WEILER,

Grand Master.

CHAS. C. STEVENSON,

Grand Secretary

Address, Boise City.

Illinois

56TH ANNUAL—CHICAGO—1ST OCTOBER, 1895.

M. W. Leroy A. Goddard, Grand Master.

Corn, wine, and oil from Jerusalem.

PRESENTATION—OF SYMBOLS OF CONSECRATION.

M. W. Bro. John C. Smith.

M. W. Grand Master: "Believing that the schoolhouse which dots the land of every part of the globe where liberty is the rule, and oppression the exception, and learning that this Grand Lodge, its Grand Master and the brethren have been invited to lay the corner-stone of an educational institution, to be known as the Illinois Normal School, at De Kalb, this day;

Learning that this occasion is to be honored by the presence of the Grand Master and the brethren, believing it to be fitting, as in ancient times, that all great public institutions should have their corner-stones laid by the Masonic Craft, and desiring that this shall be a memorable occasion, such as has not occurred in this jurisdiction, if in the United States, I desire to present to you for this occasion corn, wine, and oil, from the cradle of religious liberty, Jerusalem, which I have brought with me from the land of the Bible, on this my return from a pilgrimage around the earth."

GRAND MASTER'S ADDRESS.

Brethren of the Grand Lodge:

We have come together to-day in the interest of Freemasonry in general and of the fifty-two thousand Freemasons of the great and growing commonwealth of Illinois in particular. To be a representative in such a gathering as this is a distinction of which any man should be proud. There is inspiration in the honest look and the sincere handshake of true Masons; and this inspiration is kindled into enthusiasm when we assemble here a thousand strong in this beautiful hall in the busy, throbbing center of the greatest and most magnificent city of the age.

Illinois people are active and enterprising, and Illinois Masons are ever energetic and progressive, the trend of their ambition being 'who best can work and best agree.' True, this is as it should be, a noble contention, but it involves much labor on the part of the Grand Master to keep in touch with the Craft, an amount scarcely conceivable by one who has not undertaken the task. This labor, however, is relieved of all burden by the fraternal love and good fellowship that is encountered on every hand.

In our deliberations let us strive to promote the highest good of our beloved institution. This can only be done by continually keeping before us the sacredness and importance of our mission and fostering in our hearts the cardinal principles on which we build.

The pleasure that we experience in assembling at this annual communication will not cause us to overlook the fact that, since we last

assembled, some, whose presence has added so much enjoyment to previous sessions of this Grand Lodge, have been claimed by Death. As we exchange greetings to-day we are unable to repress a sigh now and then.

" For the touch of a vanished hand,
And the sound of a voice that is still. "

The last sad rites have been performed by friends and brothers; a last look, a tear, and all that we can do now for them is to cherish their memory and emulate whatever was worthy and noble in their lives.

But three decisions are reported.

MASONIC FUNERALS.

A number of requests have been received for more light in regard to conducting funeral ceremonies; whether or not the Lodge should be regularly opened, and if so, should it be called off before the brethren in procession leave the Lodge Hall for the public ceremony.

A Lodge is either at labor or refreshment, when not closed. When at labor it is supposed to be tiled from the public. The only form we are taught of calling off is from labor to refreshment; hence it does not appear consistent for a Lodge to perform a funeral ceremony in either condition. The question, from correspondence received, seems to be engaging the attention of other jurisdictions. I believe some form of instruction should be approved by the Grand Lodge, directing that, for Masonic funeral service, and for all other public Masonic ceremonies, the Grand Master, or the Worshipful Master, with the assistance of the other officers and brethren, should proceed to conduct such service without opening the Lodge, permitting none to assist except those duly qualified. His action should be reported at the next stated meeting and a record made.

PERPETUAL JURISDICTION.

The question of perpetual control over rejected material is now engaging the attention of nearly every Grand Jurisdiction. It has been fruitful of many disputes and no doubt will continue to be for years to come. In Illinois we recognize personal jurisdiction over rejected material wherever dispersed and the same is not effected by the lapse of time. In other words, when a candidate is once rejected by a Lodge in our jurisdiction we hold that he always remains the Masonic (rejected) property of the rejecting lodge until released by a clear ballot. He may have been only twenty-one years of age and though he may locate in another part of the world and live a life of purity and full of good deeds the relation is unchanged. A brother who was so fortunate as to be made a Mason first and thereby given the opportunity to cast an unfavorable ballot may hold the brand against the applicant so long as they both live regardless of merit or a change of location or circumstances. Thus to reject is to acquire perpetual ownership—certainly a strange law, and one not supported by the ancient regulations.

The question has been thoroughly considered and discussed; there is no new argument to present. My desire is only to record a suggestion that while it is reasonable and proper to retain control so long as the one rejected remains in our jurisdiction, there should be a limit as to the length of time of such control when he leaves our State and locates in another territory.

By my request our Grand Secretary has corresponded with the other Grand Jurisdictions of the United States, asking their position,

and of the forty-five reports received sixteen recognize the law of perpetual jurisdiction and twenty-nine do not.

Bro. W. W. Northcott, Victoria, Grand Representative from Illinois, had his commission signed for five years from January 1, 1895. Committee on Grand Master's address concluded report, viz.:

"And, finally, your committee feel that they would be derelict in their duty did they fail to call your attention to the conscientious care and extraordinary activity of the M. W. Grand Master which he has exercised for the conservation and nourishment of the interests of the Fraternity, as disclosed by his report, and also to the signal success of his administration, as portrayed by the peace, harmony, and blooming prosperity prevalent among the Craft, and to bespeak for him your affectionate gratitude."

Loyal L. Munn, Representative of British Columbia was at his post.

The Grand Lodge of New Zealand was accorded fraternal recognition.

R. W. Adlai E. Stevenson, Vice-President of the United States, was installed as Grand Orator.

Returns show membership, June 30th, 1895, to be 50,727.

Report on Correspondence is by Bro. Joseph Robbins, and needless to say that it ranks amongst the best in every respect. No conception as to its scope and its utility to the Grand Lodge of Illinois, as well as to Masonic literature can be had, unless seen or read. We hope Bro. Robbins will be long spared to continue the grand work.

British Columbia for 1893-4 are included.

I may state, Bro. Robbins, that the Committee's report on "Ritual" (1893) was adopted. Thanks for your kind and encouraging remarks.

"The hope expressed by us in our report of 1893 that with the appointment of Past Grand Master Marcus Wolfe to the chairmanship of the committee on correspondence the obstacles that had stood in the way of a report would somehow be overcome, has been realized. He presents a discriminating, well considered report (110 pp.) which must prove of

great value as well as interest to the Craft of British Columbia. Illinois for 1892 receives fraternal notice."

M. W. OWEN SCOTT,
Grand Master, Bloomington.

R. W. J. H. C. DILL,
Grand Secretary, Bloomington.

57th Annual, Chicago, 1st Tuesday October, 1896.

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Indiana

CONSPICUOUS is the portraiture of two of the distinguished of Indiana Masonry, in the volume of Proceedings of 1895, being those of Brothers Frank E. Gavin, Grand Master, and William H. Smythe, Grand Secretary. It is next to a personal acquaintanceship.

At the Annual, four hundred and sixty-seven Lodges were represented, and thirteen Past Grand Masters graced the occasion with their presence. This shows the growth of the Order in seventy-seven years, from a nucleus of nine Lodges.

The address of Brother Gavin is of excellent form and instructive ; his retrospect :

"As I stand before you, my thoughts recur to the first Grand Lodge which I attended, eighteen years ago. Then our numbers were being depleted. We were overwhelmed with debt ; our property was mortgaged to the utmost limit, and we were pressed by a large floating debt beside. Discouragement and dissatisfaction appeared on every hand. A few undismayed and determined souls bore aloft the standard, and the great body of the Craft followed, although oftentimes with doubtings and misgivings, until at last the burden was lifted, and for several years the way has been easy before us. All honor to those brave leaders, to the faithful Craftsmen to whose patient toil and labor we are so largely indebted for our present condition."

In reply to a communication from another jurisdiction, complaining of the acceptance of an applicant, who had been twice rejected in one year, prior to his removal into Indiana, Brother Gavin used these words :

"This Grand Lodge is the highest authority in Ancient Craft Masonry within the State of Indiana.

This Grand Lodge, many years ago, by its General Regulations, fixed the period of residence requisite to entitle a Lodge to receive a petition, and also prescribed the limit of time within which one Lodge should receive a petition from one who had been rejected by another Lodge.

The doctrine that a rejection by one Lodge operates *ipso facto* as a rejection by all, meets with no favor in Indiana. I am by no means satisfied that the rejection of an applicant necessarily signifies, as you would seem to regard it, that the applicant is unworthy to become a Mason. On the contrary, I feel quite sure that many men, honest, upright and honorable, are rejected simply because they are, for some satisfactory reason, *persona non grata* to some member of the Lodge. Be that, however, as it may, and conceding that the rejection implies personal unfitness, we have not in this jurisdiction been taught to consider the doctrine of eternal damnation as holding good in Masonry.

On the contrary, we early learned that there might be both repentance and reformation. Whether there has been such a change in a man's character as will entitle him to admission into a Masonic Lodge may, as it seems to me as a general rule, be best determined by those among whom he has lived during the period of his reformation, rather than by those who only knew him in the former days of his unworthiness."

Opposed to competitive competition for display, with the orders of modernism, in the public eye, his refusals assumed the following :

"I have been called upon repeatedly, both last year and during the present year, to rule that it was not permissible for Masonic Lodges to turn out to attend church or for Fourth of July or Decoration Day services. In so holding I have followed the decisions of all my predecessors, and the dictates of my own judgment as well. Such services are in no sense of the word Masonic, and by our law, by which we must be governed, Masonic processions are limited to Masonic occasions. Masonry need not now proclaim the patriotism of her sons. Love of country has ever been a characteristic of Masons. Of the sturdy patriots of 1776, who dared to do and die for their country's cause, who freely gave their own lives that their children might be free, Masons stood among the foremost. A long line of Masons, including Washington, LaFayette, Warren and Jackson, and nearly all the signers of the Declaration of Independence, attests the patriotism of our Order."

His illustration on Masonic obligations of relief :

"The duty to extend Masonic relief pertains, primarily, I apprehend, to the Mason individually and personally, rather than to the members of a Lodge collectively. When the Lodges undertake the dispensation of Masonic charity they do so, doubtless, as a matter of convenience to the members. I know of no limitation upon the obligation to render assistance which limits the duty to give it or the right to ask it to members of one's own Lodge."

True, delegated charity may, in some cases, have become a necessity, but the exercise of individual charity makes pregnant the heart with deeds of goodness, in the very image of the Great Creator.

From the thirty decisions rendered, these two are presented :

"I was asked if the name 'The Masonic Investment Company' might be used in a business venture with my consent. I answered that I could not consent thereto. On further consideration of this question, I am more and more thoroughly convinced that the name 'Masonic' or 'Masons' should not be applied to any company or corporation organized for any business purpose, whether it be ordinary investment, life or accident insurance, or what you will.

Lodge may not initiate an applicant who has lost a leg or a foot, a hand or arm or the right thumb."

Excerpta from the conclusion of his address :

"The man who is a true Mason, should be, by reason of his Masonry, better equipped for filling with credit whatever station in life he may be called to occupy. Whatever may be his relations to his fellows, in whatever capacity he may serve them, the lessons of Masonry should give him a keener sense of honor, a quicker perception of duty, a stronger desire to wrong no man. They should awaken in his heart that fidelity to trust which is unalterable. They should broaden his mind, enlarge his heart, give him new capacities and greater capabilities for good. These qualities of Masonry are not simply to be laud ! and praised in orations and on public occasions. They are not to be mere ticklers of our vanity which shall send a momentary glow to our hearts in the enthusiasm of great gatherings. They should be living, forceful realities, entering into our daily lives, governing our every-day conduct with our fellows. Many of us, indeed, fall short of attaining to this high standard, but never, I believe, has there been a time when more true men were earnestly striving to accomplish this highest mission of speculative Freemasonry.

Nor tongues nor climates, nor oceans nor iceberg, nor mountain nor wilderness have been able to set any confine upon Masonry. Over them all and beyond them all she sends her sweet spirit of Charity and Brotherly Love. On the mountains, implanted on Egypt's burning sands, more than thirty centuries ago, Masonic emblems are to be found cut into the lasting stone."

What's in a name—"Wild Cat Lodge" desired to remove to another place, but the appendant feline name remained.

The consequence of objection after ballot was reported by the Committee on Jurisprudence and accepted.

"An applicant for the degrees of Masonry is balloted for and elected. Before any of the degrees were conferred, an objection was made by a member of the Lodge privately to the Worshipful Master against the conferring of the degrees. At a subsequent stated meeting of the Lodge the Master announced the fact to the Lodge, and the Secretary made record of the same, as required by the Regulations. Shortly afterward the brother who had objected notified the Worshipful Master that he withdrew his objection. It is contended that the withdrawal of the objection leaves the candidate elected and entitled to receive the degrees as if no objection had been made. The General Regulations on the sub-

ject provide that when an objection is made to the Master of a Lodge and recorded on the records, it shall have the effect of a negative ballot, and the candidate is thereby rejected.

Your committee decide that the withdrawal of the objection by a brother making it does not change the status of the applicant, and he is rejected the same as if a black ball had been cast against him in the first instance. To be entitled to receive the degrees he must make application, be recommended by two members of the Lodge, his application referred to a committee, and if the ballot be unanimous in his favor and no objection is entered against him, the degrees may be conferred upon him."

The Correspondence report was written by Bro. William Commons. It is of large proportions.

Anent the granting of a dispensation to elect one as Master not qualified by service as Warden, he says :

"Thus was the 'prerogative' used to set aside one of the oldest 'landmarks' and permit a thing to be done which the old Constitutions say shall not be done. This query arises : Is it reverence for the landmarks, or expediency and regard for their own dignity, that mostly actuates Grand Masters ? We do not now recall but one other instance where a brother was elected and installed Master without having been a Warden. This was in a Lodge where, by deaths and removals, there was not a Past Master or Warden left among the membership. A young brother was elected and installed Master who had not been three weeks a Mason. It was done of necessity and without dispensation, and perhaps would not have been generally known had not the brother himself cited the instance, when ruling as Grand Master, against such a procedure."

Impostors and dead-beat experiences :

"For twenty-one years we have been in position in our home Lodge to meet all applicants for relief. During this time we have had applicants from almost every jurisdiction under the sun, and have been imposed upon egregiously—but not of late years. In every case the applicant has been traced, when he could be traced, and in every case but three he was found to be an impostor. Those three were : one from Virginia, one from Delaware, and one from St. John's Lodge, in Ireland, and in each of these cases the applicant was supplied without inquiry and was afterward found to be worthy. Our plan is to hold no Masonic communication with the applicant, but furnish him with subsistence at a hotel until his alleged Lodge can be communicated with, assuring him that upon its answer he will be relieved, or dealt with as a vagrant. It has never cost us more than the price of supper, lodging and breakfast. If he is drunk at the time of applying, which is frequently the case, we at once decide him unworthy and advise him to move on, to avoid arrest for attempting to procure money under false pretenses. This may seem severe, but charity to the unworthy is an offence against the general body of Masonry. In no instance have we slighted a worthy brother."

The status of one who was made while known to be resident of another jurisdiction, resulting in non-recognition on his return home from his visit, calls forth this strong utterance :

"It is true that his making was irregular, but the fault was not his. His sincerity and good faith are shown by the fact that as soon as he learned that there was a cloud upon his Masonry, he submitted the facts in the case to Reno Lodge. He was irregularly made a Mason, but he was made in a regular Lodge. Whosoever is made a Mason in a just and lawfully constituted Lodge of Masons is a regular Mason, and is entitled to be received and acknowledged as such, wheresoever he may be, unless the right has been forfeited by some fault of his own. If he should misrepresent his condition at the time of his application, he would be guilty of an offence against Masonry for which he could be disciplined."

Perpetual jurisdiction has not the Brother's favor :

"This brings up again the doctrine of 'perpetual jurisdiction,' which we have frequently called 'wrong in theory and pernicious in action.' The claim that it is a 'landmark' is preposterous. As we understand the meaning of landmark, it is a universal law. If so, perpetual jurisdiction is not a landmark by a large majority. Grand Lodge sovereignty is a landmark, and Oregon must stand convicted of an attempted violation of this, as well as of No. 16 of Mackey's enumeration, by interfering with the business of another Lodge. The law of perpetual jurisdiction is an anomaly and should have no place in Masonic jurisprudence."

BRO. EDWARD O'ROUKE,

Grand Master.

BRO. WILLIAM H. SMYTHE,

Grand Secretary.

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Indian Territory

22ND ANNUAL—ATOKA—13TH AUGUST, 1895.

M. W. John Coyle, Grand Master.

OUR Representative not reported present. Of the nineteen reported decisions, I find of interest and new, these:—

1. A brother, who is a Fellow Craft, lost one joint of the first finger and two joints of the second finger of his right hand. Would this debar him from being made a Master Mason?

No.

3. Can we initiate an Indian who cannot speak or understand the English language?

Yes; provided you have a good interpreter.

10. Is shaking dice for cigars and running a barber shop on Sunday a Masonic offence?

Shaking dice for cigars is certainly a Masonic offence. If running a barber shop on Sunday is contrary to the law, it is also a Masonic offence.

CONDITION OF THE CRAFT.

With very few exceptions, I believe the Lodges are in a prosperous condition. There are sixty-three active Chartered Lodges and nine U. D. The returns report 398 initiations, 342 passings, and 327 raisings. Total degrees conferred, 1,066. Total membership, 2,568; a gain over last year of 375, notwithstanding the fact that one Lodge, Ross, No. 15, has become defunct, and one, Hartshorne, No. 47, has had its charter arrested and hence no returns, and indeed, no returns from Dixie, No. 51. Of the active chartered Lodges, 13 report a loss in membership, caused probably by dismissals to organize new Lodges; 49 report a gain, and 3 the same number as last year. Only one Lodge has complained of the per capita dues.

PROPOSITION FROM WISCONSIN.

The following proposition from the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin was considered by the Grand Lodge and a vote of non-concurrence was adopted:

It is the duty of each Lodge to take care of its own members in distress, wherever they may be. In case of its inability so to do, this duty devolves upon the Grand Lodge from which it holds its Charter. It being understood that in no case is the Lodge furnishing relief and asking reimbursement to go beyond actual necessity, without express authority from the reimbursing body.

PROPOSITION FROM MISSISSIPPI.

The overture from the Grand Lodge of Mississippi in respect to jurisdiction over persons rejected for initiation, and over Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts petitioning for advancement in other Grand Jurisdictions, was also carefully considered and a vote of non-concurrence was carried.

Report on Correspondence is by Bro. J. S. Morrow, R. W. Grand Secretary. British Columbia for 1894 has favorable review.

Bro. Morrow says under British Columbia: "We notice several dispensations were granted 'to wear regalia at public divine service.' 'There is a time and place for everything; the place and time to wear Masonic regalia is *not* at public divine service.' "

Where, Bro. Morrow, is the difference between wearing regalia to attend Divine Service, which is (in my opinion) Masonic labor, and wearing regalia to a Masonic funeral, or laying a corner stone, both of which are done in "Public"? Please.

M. W. JOHN COYLE,
re-elected *Grand Master*.

R. W. J. S. MORROW,
re-elected *Grand Secretary*.

Iowa

52ND ANNUAL—MARSHALLTOWN—4TH JUNE, 1895.

M. W. Liberty Eaton Fellows, Grand Master.

WHO in his opening remarks said:—

“We meet under circumstances so highly favourable as to call forth from each heart the liveliest emotions of gratitude to our Supreme Ruler, who has vouchsafed to us so great a measure of health, prosperity and happiness as have come to the people of our loved Iowa.

Returns show 26,103 members, a net gain for the year of 1,051.

No Rulings are recorded.

This statement by the Grand Master speaks well—

“We should endeavour to be fully abreast with the times, and ours should be in the front rank among the Grand Jurisdictions. For Masonry in Iowa the future is full of promise. During the two years I have served you in my present capacity there has been scarcely a ripple to disturb the peace and harmony which has prevailed. No occasion has arisen to suspend a charter, discipline a Lodge, or issue an edict.”

The “Grand Old Man” Parvin submitted his 51st report as Grand Secretary and 46th as Grand Librarian, which are up to as high a standard, as is the *tout ensemble* of all Iowa's proceedings, the Library and Museum of Iowa being the finest in America, and under the especial care of Bro. Parvin. A beautiful photograph of the building appears.

Bro. Parvin writes about

DUTIES HOW PERFORMED.

“In my long experience as a Mason and as a Grand Officer I have always endeavored to perform my duties in a conscientious manner and for the good of my brethren; I have ever sought to make the base line both of my motives and my actions that of honesty; I have always shunned that expediency which permits wrong to be done that right may come of it; it has no place in my Masonic Action and should never have in that of others any more than in the code of morals. In the discharge of these duties I have on many occasions antagonized those who may have had other motives of action; I regarded their action as adverse to the best interests of the Grand Lodge. While I could have wished to pass through life retaining the good-will of all men, I have much preferred the satisfaction of my own conscience rather than the temporary applause of my fellow-men. I have received much at the hands of my brethren, for which I am truly thankful.

If my labors have contributed, to some extent at least, in establishing the fair fame of the Grand Lodge, in creating and building up its great library, then when all else is gone I can safely trust to them as the monument that shall testify to the value of my services.

It was said of Patroclus, one of Homer's heroes, that he got more honour from the struggle of his fellow-heroes over his dismantled body than could have come to him by the most unanimous of funerals. It may be that, like him, honours which some have denied the living may be reserved only for the dead, for I believe that—

* * * Love outlives the hate of men and peace is born of God.'

For it cannot be said of me, as has been said of but very few indeed who have rendered much service to the public, that—

'HE HAS NO ENEMIES.'

'He has no enemies you say?
My friend, your boast is poor;
He who has mingled in the fray
Of duty that the brave endure,
Must have made foes.
If he has none,
Small is the work he has done;
If he has hit no traitor on the hip,
He has cast no cup from perjured lip,
He has never turned the wrong to right,
He has been a coward in the fight.'

Bro. J. C. W. Coxe presented the report on Foreign Correspondence. B. C. for 1894, included and has extensive review, of our report he says :

"Most Worshipful Marcus Wolfe again appears in the role of correspondent, filling one hundred and twenty-nine pages wisely and instructively. He is rapidly acquiring the swing of success, and his brethren will do themselves as well as their honored Past Grand Master injustice, if they do not carefully read his stimulating pages."

The report of Iowa is complete in all its details, even an index for the more important topics, and on the whole a valuable volume. We must compliment Bro. Coxe again.

G. W. BALL,

M. W. Grand Master, Iowa City.

T. S. PARVIN,

R. W. Grand Secretary, Cedar Rapids.

53rd Communication, Boone, 2nd June, 1896.

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Ireland

THE published pamphlets issued by this Grand Lodge do not contain a great deal of information outside of financial statements.

The officers for 1896 are :

HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF ABERCORN,
M. W. Grand Master.

RIGHT HON. LORD CASTLETOWN,
R. W. Grand Secretary.

Office : Freemasons' Hall, Molesworth St., Dublin.

1009 Lodges on the Register.

R. W. F. C. Crossle, M.D. is our Representative.

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Kansas

40TH ANNUAL—WICHITA—19TH FEBRUARY, 1896.

M. W. James H. McCall, Grand Master, Presiding.

OUR Representative, W. Bro A. H. Connell, present. No present or past Grand Officers have been "cut down by the all devouring Seythe of Time." Nothing has occurred to mar the peace and harmony between this and other jurisdictions in correspondence.

Seven decisions reported involve nothing but of local interest. Returns show 19,185 members. The report of Special Committee as to the "Wisconsin Proposition for Masonic Relief" concluded their report, which was adopted.

"We also recognize the fact that it is the duty of the Lodge to relieve the distress of and care for its indigents or afflicted members; but we believe that the obligation ceases there. If a Lodge well able financially to reimburse a foreign Lodge for an expenditure in behalf of a distressed member should refuse to do so upon a proper demand, some kind of discipline should be administered. In this connection we express our agreement with the recent Masonic Congress held in Chicago :

"That the brethren of Lodges granting such aid are not entitled to demand reimbursement from the Lodges in which the beneficiaries hold membership, but that when a member of one Lodge is relieved by another, and the financial situation of his Lodge is such as to permit, common courtesy and duty alike demand that it should reimburse a Lodge relieving its members."

We cannot help but conclude that the adoption of the proposition would open the way for an innovation, if it would not primarily be such. The plan of Masonic charity, that is, the manner of its dissemination and the obligation of brother to brother, may be termed a landmark, and anything tending toward its removal or material change should be considered very critically. While it is true that Masonry is a charitable institution, its charity is not given like that of any other fraternity. It is not a question of the dollars and cents of return for the dollars and cents invested. The only thing that gauges Masonic charity is worthiness coupled with need, and this considered with the ability of the donor. It is not an institution in which by the payment of a stipulated sum in dues the member knows just how much he will receive in "benefits" when disabled. If such a thing should be allowed to enter the Masonic Institution, Masonry would cease to be Masonry, and sink to the level of modern charitable associations, in which for a specified investment there is a stipulated monetary return.

We therefore recommend that the proposition be rejected.

Fraternally submitted,

WILLIAM DIXON,	} Committee.
A. H. ROBY,	
F. S. PORTER,	

The report of the Committee on Correspondence as to the question of recognition of the Gran Dieta Simbolica of the United States of Mexico, was adopted.

"From the foregoing your committee would summarize as follows :

1. The Symbolic Lodges of Mexico entered into the organization and formation of the Gran Dieta, and the latter was duly and regularly organized as a sovereign Grand Body over the Symbolic degrees of Masonry within the Grand Jurisdiction of Mexico, in February, 1890.

2. The charges made against the Gran Dieta as a sovereign Grand Lodge are shown never to have been true as to its Constitution and By-Laws, and it has by solemn enactment decreed that the Holy Bible, square and compass should be used on all Masonic altars in the Symbolic Lodges of the Republic of Mexico, and that all charters held by so-called women Lodges be at once withdrawn, and no recognition of women as Masons ever be made.

3. We also find that practical recognition has been given to the Gran Dieta by American Masons residing or sojourning in Mexico, and that American visitors to Mexican Lodges find the work to be practically the same as that of the Lodges of the United States ; that the recognition of the Gran Dieta by the Grand Lodge of Texas has been productive of a better feeling of amity between the two jurisdictions ; that recognition has also been formally made of the Gran Dieta by the Grand Lodges of New York and North Dakota, and that the Grand Lodge of Missouri, by advising its subordinate Toltec Lodge, No. 520, to accept a charter from the Gran Dieta, has in the most impressive manner certified to its legitimacy and regularity, and borne testimony to the fact that it regarded and considered the Gran Dieta a body of character and stability, and entitled to the allegiance of all the Symbolic Lodges within its jurisdiction. We also find from the testimony of Masons known to us that the "good of Masonry" demands that we extend a helping hand to our brethren of Mexico.

We therefore recommend that the Grand Symbolic Diet of the United States of Mexico be duly recognized by this Grand Lodge in accordance with our usual custom in such matter."

Report on Correspondence is by Bro. M. M. Miller; British Columbia for 1895 is accorded more than passing notice, our proceedings being exhaustively reviewed; concluded with:—"Shall look for the next report from British Columbia with interest."

The report throughout shows Bro. Miller to be a Mason of great ability and of vast research. We should like to quote more copiously; however, a report like his must be read to be appreciated.

M. W. CHILES C. COLEMAN,
Grand Master, Clay Center.

R. W. ALBERT K. WILSON,
Grand Secretary, Topeka.

Salina was selected as the next place of meeting, February 17th, 1897.

—:O:—

Kentucky

96TH ANNUAL—LOUISVILLE—15TH OCTOBER, 1895.

M. W. H. H. Holeman, *Grand Master*.

"OUR DEAD.

DURING the year the grim reaper has walked throughout the length and breadth of the land, and with icy fingers has beckoned some of the best and noblest of our Craft to that "undiscovered country from whose bourne no traveler returns." The Committee on Necrology will, in a proper manner, direct your attention to the loss sustained by the Order in this and other jurisdictions, and suggest suitable action in regard thereto.

FOREIGN RELATIONS.

It is with profound pleasure that I inform you that nothing has occurred during my term of office to mar the peace and harmony of the Craft. Some questions there are, it is true, on which all are not agreed, but such questions have been treated in the true Masonic spirit, and which portends a continuance of close fraternal relations among Grand Jurisdictions without contention. Where agreement has been found impossible, a fraternal disagreement, dictated by a spirit of fraternal consideration, prevails."

Of the twenty-one reported decisions I find the following new in my time :—

"16. The law requires the ballot spread the second time when only one black ball is cast. It also allows the member casting the black ball to withdraw same publicly by the second stated meeting thereafter. A black ball was so withdrawn but later than the second stated meeting after it was cast, and the candidate was initiated. Held—The candidate is not supposed to know the law, and having acted in good faith and having been initiated in a regular lodge, he is a regular Mason."

This may be a very just enactment, but I question its expediency, as there might be pressure brought to bear on a Brother to alter his first vote against his moral inclination.

Bro. H. B. Grant, for the Special Committee on "Discipline of a Master," read the following report (which was adopted) :—

To the Grand Lodge of Kentucky.

The Special Committee to whom was referred that part of the Most Worshipful Grand Master's address touching the discipline of a Master, respectfully report :

The prevailing opinion appears to be in harmony with our Kentucky laws, namely, that the subordinate Lodge has no power to try its Master for any offense, however heinous, during his term of office, because he should be tried by his peers ! Not much "meet upon the level" in that.

The question has been brought before the Grand Lodge on many occasions, but no satisfactory solution has ever been reached. More than a quarter of a century ago Maine, Massachusetts, Wisconsin and Mississippi authorized five members, or a District Deputy Grand Master to impeach the Master before the Grand Lodge, who was tried before the succeeding Grand Lodge. North Carolina provided for three members to prefer charges. Georgia provided for a trial by a commission of present or Past Masters. Other Grand Lodges had similar provisions.

Your committee heartily concurs in the suggestions of the Most Worshipful Grand Master, and respectfully recommends that the following, as regulations, be adopted :

It shall be competent for three members of a Lodge to prefer charges against the Master thereof. When the charges are submitted to the Grand Master and the alleged offense is deemed by him to be of sufficient magnitude to require action, he shall appoint a commission of three or five present and Past Masters to take the evidence for and against the accused. The first named on said commission shall act as Chairman and the last named as Secretary. The Commission shall proceed as far as practicable as a committee in ordinary lodge trial, with power to summon witnesses, and shall promptly submit its report and record to the Grand Master with recommendations.

The Grand Master may approve, revise or modify the findings of the Commission, and his action shall be final, subject to appeal.

Steps were taken at this communication for the proper celebration of the "Centennial Anniversary" of this Jurisdiction in 1899.

Report on Correspondence is prepared by W. W. Clarke, P.G.M., and ranks well to the front.

British Columbia does not appear. No doubt it was not received in time.

FRANK C. GERARD,
Grand Master, Bowling Green.

H. B. GRANT,
Grand Secretary, Louisville.

—:o:—

Louisiana

THE Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Louisiana came in a most presentable form, bearing the Craft-mark of Grand Secretary Richard Lambert.

Grand Master George H. Packwood presided over the deliberations at the eighty-third Communication, and on behalf of the brethren of Louisiana extended a cordial welcome and Masonic greeting to the members.

It appears strange to meet with the following resolution : "That all Lodges who have made returns and paid dues to date be allowed representation." It covers more ground probably than is seen on the surface, for if the subordinates, in the condition mentioned, have not a constitutional right to be present, it would be hard to find of what the Grand Body could be composed.

In strong language the Grand Master in his address depicts the sufferings and apprehensions of the world without, and says such things are checks to man's vain boastings and presumption—"that success may not become arrogance and happiness may not be lost in selfishness."

A feature that claims particular attention is the Louisiana Relief Lodge, evidently a measure to prevent imposition upon the individual Lodges, and in practice in other jurisdictions, locally, under other names. This seems to be a State body, in which all Lodges and members can contribute of their substance in a general charity. The grand Master suggests such appropriation to this purpose as the finances will permit and uses the following incitement: "The teachings of Freemasonry are beautiful in themselves, but in their application are sublime—let your conduct test your belief in them." That the system does not work with entire equity, and such arrangements never do, may be found in the closing sentence of the Relief Lodge report: "We most reluctantly say that we find it quite inconsistent in non-contributing Lodges, as a body, or by any individual members of same, to elude their duty, when applied to for relief, to refer such applicants to this body. We think it is, to say the least, very ungenerous."

During the year five dispensations for the installing of new Lodges were issued.

Brother Packwood, in a circular, recommended the observance of St. John's Day, and it was as seed falling on good ground. There is an increasing disposition manifesting itself among the Craft to celebrate this day as a festival, and it should be encouraged.

One of the District Deputies wanted to know if he could "open and conduct the business of a Lodge in the absence of the Master and Wardens," and was answered "No."

A complaint that a Lodge in the jurisdiction was making more than five Master Masons at one and the same communication was deemed of importance enough to counsel with the wise, and submit the conclusion arrived at to the Committee on Jurisprudence, who ratified the same:

"The question as to the number of candidates for degrees in Masonry that may be admitted into the Lodge and have the degrees conferred upon them, *'at one and the same time,'* as expressed in some old Regula-

tions, is not determined by 'ancient usages,' nor is it a 'landmark' 'Ancient usages' and 'landmarks' refer to matters that are of the essence of the body of 'Freemasonry' which permit neither 'change' nor 'innovation'; the question, *how many* may be admitted for initiating, passing or raising *at the same time*, or *at the same communication*, is matter of form and detail and may be the subject of legislation.

"The words '*one and the same time*,' used by nearly all the authorities, do not mean 'at the same meeting,' and if they were to be held to constitute an ancient usage or landmark, I would hold that the words mean not more than *five* persons shall be *introduced* into the Lodge and have the degrees conferred on them *together*, 'at one and the same time,' without restricting the number that might be introduced *successively* at the same meeting. While it is true that the Committee on Work has, at times, given the above-quoted expressions a strict meaning, there has never been any definite legislation on the question in this jurisdiction, except that contained in *Edict 42*, to the enforcement of which the Grand Master was expressly directed by a resolution of the Grand Lodge at its last *Annual Communication*, to the effect 'that all Lodges are strictly forbidden to confer the first section of the *first* and *second* degrees, and the *first* and *second* section of *third* degrees on more than one candidate at the same time.'

"This provision is ample to preserve the purity and dignity of the Work of the Degrees, and imposes the only restriction on the Lodges in this jurisdiction, as to the manner in which they shall proceed in initiating, passing or raising candidates.

"Subject to the restrictions and conditions of this *Edict* only, there is no limitation in this jurisdiction as to the number of candidates upon whom the Lodges may confer degrees of Masonry *successively*, at one and the same meeting."

The restrictions in New Jersey are that but one can be received and obligated at a time, the impressive dignity of the ceremonial outbalances the prosaic.

The policy of continuing the Representative system, so largely considered at the present time, receives this illustration at the hands of the Grand Master :

"I never witness the impressive ceremony of our reception at each Annual Grand Communication without feeling that I am in a manner in the presence of those of our brethren of other jurisdictions whom they represent. For my heart feels lifted up on the pure and spotless wing of Divine inspiration--going out to all the brethren of the brotherhood of Freemasons of the world. It is a grand ceremony, and there certainly is a sentiment of brotherly love in this impressive exchange of greetings which alone justifies the continuance of the system. Therefore, I think the system is a part of comity and fraternal recognition between the Masonic Grand Bodies and almost essential to the perpetuation of Freemasonry as the greatest and most exalted brotherhood among the races of men."

Elaborate reports appear from the Grand Secretary, Directors of the Grand Lodge Hall and Cemetery. A large

sum was applied to the improvement of this latter. While taking care of the living, Louisiana fails not to remember the dead.

The acquisition of life-exemption from Grand Lodge dues is not availed of to any great extent.

It was sought to increase the fund for the extinction of the Temple indebtedness by the compulsory payment of three dollars for a Grand Lodge diploma by each Master when raised, but this and other plans for the same purpose were laid over. Large and costly buildings for Masonic use, beyond the limit of the present abilities, though the design on the trestle-board may appear proportionate and receives sanction of the Craft, are terrible drags on the fraternity, and in some instances defeat the object of the undertaking by a bankrupt ending. New Jersey has had bitter experience in this direction. Even the Great Temple withstood, comparatively, but a few years the forces arrayed against it, and met its doom. The strain in Louisiana upon its Masons may be gathered from the following, found in the Auditing Committee's report: "To pay the current expenses of the Grand Lodge, to provide for the redemption of its bonds and to avoid default on its interest obligations, the Grand Lodge cannot now afford to indulge in dispensing charities. In ethics it cannot give in charity what belongs to its creditors. It must be just before it is charitable." To be deprived of the exercise of charity is indeed serious, not alone in its mundane benison, but also in its vibratory mission to the great beyond.

A motion prohibiting the conferring of the degrees upon "one who makes it his business to sell intoxicating liquors as a beverage," was declared lost.

The Foreign Correspondence is still the work of Brother John Q. A. Fellows, Past Grand Master, who has the gift of imbuing what he writes with his personal orthodoxy.

Some forty years ago Brother Fellows was Master of the Relief Lodge in Louisiana, and appears to have been very near the father of the "first of its kind in Masonry." Its primal object appears to have been to protect the Lodges against imposition from Masonic tramps, as well as to form a general means of assistance to the needy. The Brother says :

"If we stated that *all* Masonic relief should be purely voluntary contributions we stated what we did not intend. That most of it should be, we still insist upon. What we intended, and what we think our remarks, taken as a whole, clearly show, is, that Masonic charity should not be derived wholly, nor even for a moiety, from the Lodge funds. Cases may arise that call for such immediate assistance that Lodge funds should be on hand to some extent to afford temporary relief, and some worthy brother may have made an endowment, which the Lodge administers. What we were at, in what we said, was to effectually disabuse the minds of the brethren that their contributions as dues were mainly for charities, to be dispensed by or through the Lodge, and that on the payment of those dues their obligations to calls of charity ceased. It was to combat this too prevalent idea, derived from health and life associations, and which is contrary to the very spirit of Freemasonry, that we wrote and now continue this discussion."

Fundamental principles and landmarks receive the following illustrations :

"We must still insist that fundamental principles are landmarks, not all fundamental principles, such as propositions in geometry, or physics ; but the fundamental principles of Masonry are : Belief in God is a fundamental principle, and is one held as such by Masons in all time, as fundamental and necessary to the existence of the institution. There is no *law* requiring it, in the strict sense of the word, but the belief in God is fundamental, and we cannot see the distinction.

"His landmark No. 1 is simply a definition of the word or term landmark. This *definition* is 'The ancient landmarks of Freemasonry are the immemorial usages and fundamental principles of the Craft and are unchangeable.' Stopping with the word 'craft,' the definition is perfect. 'Immemorial usages,' 'fundamental principles'—anything else is not a landmark. The word immemorial limits the usages, fundamental the principles. This definition is the touchstone by which we may safely try everything that is asserted or claimed to be a landmark. The words, 'and are unchangeable,' is simply an axiom and needs, indeed admits of, no proof. No one ever asserted that a real landmark could be lawfully changed; such an assertion would be a contradiction, a confusion of terms. There was no need of the citation of authorities on this point."

"We have heretofore expressed the opinion that Grand Lodges cannot add to the obligations of Masons, by any new requirement, without violating the landmarks and changing the original design of Freemasonry, and hence, that such legislation as has taken place in general jurisdictions on the saloon question, among others, is not binding upon Masons and should not have been enacted. As far back as 1867 the Committee on Masonic Law and Jurisprudence of our Grand Lodge reported, and its report was adopted, that the only written landmarks are those

in the 'Ancient Charges,' and the unwritten, those contained in the ceremonies of initiation and the ties which bind us together as Masons; *nor is it proper, by legislation, to make any new obligations, with penalties attached.*"

GEORGE H. PACKWOOD,
Grand Master.

RICHARD LAMBERT,
Grand Secretary.

—:O:—

Maine

76TH ANNUAL—PORTLAND—7TH MAY, 1896.

M. W. Horace H. Burbank, Grand Master.

⑧UR Representative not recorded present.
The opening remarks of the Grand Master's address were :—

"I extend a cordial greeting to each and all present. I bid you royal welcome to this annual assembly. I congratulate this Grand Body upon abundant harmony, satisfactory increase of membership, present prosperity, and apparently bright prospects awaiting the Fraternity.

We do well to be grateful to our Father for a continuance of life's blessings for another year.

'God's bright eternal stars have kept
Their faithful watch to guard our feet,
His loving eye hath never slept
Till here again in peace we meet.

The circling months have filled the year
With countless blessings as they fled,
While once again the Craft appear
By His great love and wisdom led.'

On June 1st, next, this Grand Lodge will have numbered seventy-five years of existence, reaching a milestone of which we are to take note on the morrow. I will not anticipate the exercises which have been assigned for that day; but I may well felicitate the Craft upon the attainment which these seventy-five years have brought in their flight. The journey has not always been an easy or pleasant task nor the road free from thorns. In the distant past our Order encountered violent opposition and its faithful members met persecution and obloquy; but victory at last crowned their patience and devotion. Our past is secure, and we should not forget the debt we owe to our Masonic ancestors for the treasures which they garnered for and bequeathed to us. Leaders in a time when it cost more than money to be true Masons, they merit our best tribute of esteem."

Returns show, April 1st, 21,809 Masons, an increase of 245 for the year. Of the six decisions recorded, Nos. 1 and 2 are rather extreme.

- "1. It is not permissible for officers of a Lodge to wear robes."
- "2. A Lodge has no right to pay out of its treasury the expense of its annual receptions, the principal feature of which is dancing. Nor is it Masonic to advertise Masonry in that manner, or any other."

Grand Master Burbank concludes his address with "some very pointed suggestions," and submits "four thoughts" for individual faithful reflection. They are "Temperance," "Brotherly Love," "Duty to God," "Duty to Country." These are his closing remarks. :—

"Indeed, in all our lines of Masonic life and work, let us prove to our neighbors and fellow-citizens that our Order has something of worth and profit to men and women, and to the community and State.

There is no room in our mystic circle for the intemperate, the untruthful, the licentious, the profane. We should not have our good name tainted by such members. The world has naught to do with our secrets, but it has much to do with the conduct of our members.

And you and I must remember the element of personal responsibility which we cannot shirk nor shake off; and to this extent are we our 'brother's keeper.' Somebody has written: 'The space between what a man is and his ideal is, is his opportunity.'

Masonic tenets place before us a grand ideal for our conduct. How best we will improve our opportunity depends almost entirely upon individual effort. True Masonry is growth, progress. We cannot live on the bread of the past alone. While loyally conservative of our landmarks, we must not be content with traditions. Our Order must advance to greater light; and if we as Masons would seek the deeper meaning of life, and be judged by our standard before mankind, we must not be dreamers, idlers, loiterers, soldiers on parade, but must move forward, work, strive, fight. Only thus are good results attained and character acquired; only thus do ideals have value, and symbols have use or meaning. Our Institution is apparently free from external danger; have we like security within?

In such spirit, dear brethren, improving the lessons of the past, catching the inspiration of present duty and future possibility, equipped with the invulnerable armor of correct personal example, let us labor on in this unceasing warfare of making society better and homes more sacred, making better husbands, fathers, sons, brothers, neighbors and citizens, of dissolving malice and hate, and of supplanting slander, impurity and vice with fraternity, sincerity, virtue and truth. When we fully appreciate duty and possibility, and govern our word and deed accordingly, then in truth may we anticipate the fruition of our Masonic dream, the true solution of these mystic symbols, disarm criticism, merit a measure of approval of the outer world, and commend our work as faithful Craftsmen to the Grand Architect of the Universe."

The Grand Lodge of New Zealand was cordially granted recognition.

A historical address by P.G.M. E. P. Burnham, "Reminiscences of Early Members" by P. G. M. Hiram

Chase, "Oration" by P.G.M. Josiah H. Drummond, interspersed with music, formed the programme of exercises in celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the Grand Lodge, all of which are very interesting. The oration of Bro. Drummond was especially good and wish we had space to reproduce it, but you all know what Bro. Drummond does can only be *well done*.

We notice that under the laws of Maine "The effect of a rejection continues five years and no longer."

Report on Correspondence is by a very powerful "team," consisting of Bros. Drummond, Burnham and Chase, whose labors would grace any Masonic library. It must be read to be appreciated.

British Columbia for 1894 has its usual share of fraternal comment. Of our F. C. Report they say "Its mechanical make up, as well as style, make it pleasant reading. Bro. Wolfe is so chary of his comments that he gives brother reviewers very few texts for either a "Song" or "Sermon."

As Representative of Maine I hereby extend the warmest fraternal greeting from British Columbia Grand Lodge, to which I add my personal admiration for your grand old jurisdiction.

AUGUSTUS B. FARNHAM,
Grand Master.

STEPHEN BERRY,
Grand Secretary.

77th Annual, Portland, 5th May, 1896.

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Manitoba

20TH ANNUAL—WINNIPEG—12TH JUNE, 1895.

M. W. Bro. Thomas Tweed, Grand Master.

THE Grand Master did not deem any of his decisions of sufficient importance to submit for consideration to Grand Lodge.

CONDITION OF THE CRAFT.

"A reference to the several reports of the District Deputy Grand Masters, shows an increase of membership during the year. The prevailing financial depression, however, has doubtless had the effect of preventing many worthy men from seeking admission to our beloved institution. This is to be regretted, yet we have the knowledge that our membership is united, and that the greatest harmony exists all over our wide jurisdiction. I am hopeful that with the now returning tide of prosperity our prospects will be materially brightened. I would urge upon subordinate Lodges the necessity of sufficiently insuring their property, and of collecting the dues more promptly, and would suggest the advisability, in the general interests of Masonry in this jurisdiction, of the abolition or reduction of affiliation fees.

RELATIONS WITH FOREIGN JURISDICTIONS.

It is with pleasure that I have to report that our relations with our sister jurisdictions continue to be of the most friendly character.

Under this head I desire to report that on the 10th December, 1894, I received a letter from the Worshipful Master of St. Paul's Lodge, 374, G. R. of England, meeting at Montreal, requesting permission to initiate a resident of the Northwest Territories with that Lodge. The Grand Lodge of England and the Grand Lodge of Quebec holding concurrent jurisdiction in the City of Montreal, with both of which Grand Lodges we are on the most intimate and fraternal terms, I did not feel inclined to accept the responsibility of creating a precedent, whereby possible complications might arise, and consequently refused to waive jurisdiction.

The Grand Lodges of Wyoming and Kentucky having decided to abandon the system of Grand Representatives, and having requested that the commissions of Representatives for the Grand Lodges of Manitoba near the above named Grand Lodges be withdrawn, nothing was left to be done but to comply, which I accordingly did, at the same time expressing the hope that, as in the past, the same fraternal good feeling would exist in the future.

The Grand Secretary in his report had this to say on

VISIT TO BRITISH COLUMBIA.

"After the close of our last Annual Communication I had the pleasure, in company with R. W. Bro. Hugh U. Bain, Grand Junior Warden and other brethren, of visiting the sister Jurisdiction of British Columbia. From the time we entered the Province until our departure we received unbounded kindness from the brethren there.

On June 22nd, 1894, we visited the Grand Lodge in session at New Westminster, when we received a hearty welcome. M. W. Bro. R. B. McMicking, Grand Master, extended us a cordial welcome, and expressed on behalf of the members of the Grand Lodge, the kindest and most fraternal feelings towards the Grand Lodge of Manitoba, and referred to the pleasure it gave him in welcoming for the first time visitors from the Grand Lodge of Manitoba.

After the close of the session of the Grand Lodge a banquet was given in our honor at the Guichon Hotel, when we were entertained with a truly Masonic hospitality.

It would be difficult for me to name all the brethren from whom we received so many acts of kindness, but I must refer specially to M. W.

Bro. R. B. McMicking, Grand Master, R. W. Bro. Lacey R. Johnston, Deputy Grand Master, R. W. Bro. W. J. Quinlan, Grand Secretary, M. W. Bro. J. S. Clute, P. G. M., and M. W. Bro. Marcus Wolfe, P. G. M. These brethren and others at the various centres of population that we visited would have 'transformed their Province into a Garden of Eden for our enjoyment had their power been equal to their will.'

Fraternally submitted,

WM. G. SCOTT, Grand Secretary.

I can say, Bro. Scott, and the Grand Lodge of Manitoba, that it afforded us great pleasure, and hope we may have the opportunity again at no distant date.

The Committee on Grand Secretary's Report included the following :—

"The reference by the Grand Secretary to the visit of officers of this Grand Lodge to the neighbouring Grand Lodge of British Columbia, then in session at New Westminster, is regarded by your committee as graceful and appropriate, and cannot fail to perpetuate the kindest fraternal feelings which have happily always existed between the members of the Grand Lodges of British Columbia and Manitoba."

V. W. Bro. James Alex. Carley presented his credentials and was duly received and welcomed as the Representative of the Grand Lodge of British Columbia.

MOTION TO AMEND CONSTITUTION LOST.

"It was moved by R. W. Bro. Thomas Robinson (10), seconded by M. W. Bro. Wm. G. Bell (3), that the following be inserted after Section 169, viz. :—

The following are Masonic offences :—

All public crimes and misdemeanors involving moral turpitude.

Drunkenness and profligacy.

Fighting.

Adultery, and all lascivious associations, whether with the relative of a Mason or with a stranger.

Cruelty to a wife or child.

Contempt for God or religion.

Atheism.

Masonic communion with clandestine Masons or irregular Lodges.

Improper revelations.

Disobedience to those in authority, or contemptuous language towards them.

All countenance of impostors.

Contemptuous expressions respecting Masonry.

Wronging a Mason by fraud.

Violation of the secrecy of the ballot.

Unseemly conduct in the Lodge.

Undue solicitation of candidates.

Using a Masonic emblem as a trademark or business sign.

Any intentional violation of the technical parts or points of the several Masonic obligations.

Any violation of the particular injunctions of the ritual, or any of the landmarks of Masonry.

Any violation of the Constitution, laws, edicts, rules or regulations of the Grand Lodge.

Any violation of the by-laws of a Lodge by a member thereof."

The motion was put to the Grand Lodge and declared "lost."

No Report on Correspondence.

M. W. CHARLES N. BELL,

Grand Master, Winnipeg.

R. W. G. SCOTT,

Grand Secretary, Winnipeg.

21st Annual, Winnipeg, 10th June, 1896.

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Maryland

SEMI-ANNUAL—BALTIMORE—14TH MAY, 1895.

Thomas J. Shryock, Grand Master.

THE following reports are of sufficient interest to the Craft to be reproduced, and should be carefully read :

"The committee on the resolution of Bro. Henry Branch, submitted at the last November Communication, in reference to laying of corner stones, funerals, etc., presented a majority and minority report as follows :

MAJORITY REPORT.

BALTIMORE, May 14, 1895.

Gen. Thos. J. Shryock, Grand Master, M.W.G. Lodge of Maryland.

The Committee to whom was referred the following resolution, 'Resolved, That the laying of corner stones, unveiling of statues, burial of the dead, etc., are true Masonic work, and should be performed, while the Lodge is open, in the Third Degree,' respectfully report that we cannot agree as to the latter part of the resolution ; and the undersigned submit the following majority report :

That the language of the resolution, 'should be performed, while the Lodge is open, in the Third Degree,' is a violation of the very nature and constitution of a tyled Lodge. The idea prevails with some brethren that the ceremony is not performed by the Lodge, if called off. We take the ground that when a Lodge is opened and tyled, that under no circumstances can the officers and members leave the hall or room, in a body, without calling off or closing. The calling off of a lodge is the suspension of the private work or business of the Lodge for any public work or purpose, consistent with the usage of Masonry; it may be for the purpose of laying a corner stone, burial of the dead, unveiling a statue, or for refreshments; and the object is so stated when the Lodge is called off. In pursuance of the investigation of this question the Grand Secretary sent the following circular letter to the Grand Secretaries of all the Grand Lodges of this country, with whom we are in communication, and received replies from forty-seven of the fifty-six Grand Lodges written to; thirty-one—Minnesota, New Hampshire, Maine, Georgia, Florida, District of Columbia, Missouri, New Jersey, Michigan, Rhode Island, Delaware, New Mexico, South Dakota, Virginia, Colorado, Alabama, Kansas, Mississippi, Massachusetts, Vermont, Connecticut, Utah, Oregon, Nevada, Indian Territory, Illinois, Iowa, Ohio, Kentucky, British Columbia and Nebraska—do not call off; fourteen jurisdictions—New York, South Carolina, North Carolina, West Virginia, Canada, Quebec, Louisiana, Texas, Manitoba, California, Wyoming, Washington, Montana and Arkansas—do call off; and to these may be added our own jurisdiction. One, Pennsylvania, does not open a Lodge on such occasions. In some of the replies reasons are given; in others the answer is simply Yes or No. Thus we find great diversity of practice and confess our surprise at this in the face of the usage laid down by the Grand Lodge of England (the very best Masonic authority in the world), as given by Preston and Oliver in reference to funerals (see Preston's History of Masonry, pp. 75 and 78), and also in the form prescribed for laying of corner stones by the 'National Masonic Convention' which met in Baltimore in 1843 (see pp. 30 and 35 Proceedings of the National Masonic Convention, and inferentially by the same National Convention for funerals, p. 19). This evidently implies that the business of Masonry (viz: work in the Third Degree) is to be suspended, and renewed when the Lodge returns; for there could be no necessity for 'complying with the necessary duties, and renewing the business of Masonry' had it not been suspended. The language used, 'where the necessary duties are complied with, and the business of Masonry is renewed,' is identically that used by Preston and Webb. We are convinced that the words 'adjourned' and 'called off' are synonymous terms; the former was used by our Grand Lodge in its communications until about 1849 or '50, when the term 'called off' was substituted. Grand Master Tyson, in 1885, toward the close of his administration, decided 'that a Lodge should not be called off to proceed to a funeral.' This is not in accordance with the authorities and usage referred to above, nor has the practice been followed by our Grand Lodge since that time.

Respectfully submitted,

GRAHAM DUKEHART, } Committee.
JACOB H. MEDAIRY, }

GRAND LODGE, A. F. & A. MASONS OF MARYLAND.

BALTIMORE, March 25th, 1895.

R. W. Sir and Brother :

Please answer on this sheet the following question for the information of our Grand Lodge :

On the occasion of Funerals, Laying of Corner Stones and the Dedication of Masonic Halls (the Lodge being opened in the Third Degree and the Lodge service concluded), is it your usage to call off the Lodge before the brethren in procession leave the Temple to perform the public ceremony?

JACOB A. MEDAIRE, Grand Secretary.

MINORITY REPORT.

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Maryland.

The undersigned, a member of the committee to whom was referred the resolution of Brother Branch, regarding public ceremonies, being unable to concur in the conclusions reached by the remaining members of the committee, asks leave to present the following minority report.

I am unable to give my assent to the meaning the majority committee attach to the word *adjourn* used in the forms for ceremonies on public occasions as laid down by Oliver, Preston, and the Masonic National Convention of 1843.

The same term appears in one or more of the forms in most of the old Ahirman Rezens and Text-Books, and it is also in the present regulation of the Grand Lodge of England, for the laying of foundation stones, etc., and reads as follows:—

‘The Grand Lodge being *opened* at a convenient place, and the necessary directions and instructions given, it is adjourned (the brethren being in their proper clothing and jewels and wearing white gloves), and the procession moves in the following order (which is that as laid down in all the Text-Books), to the place where the foundation stone is to be laid.’

At the conclusion of the ceremonies, ‘the procession returns to the place from which it set out and the Grand Lodge is *closed*.’ I understand this to mean, the Grand Lodge *adjourns* in procession from the place where it was *opened* to the place where the ceremony takes place; that it is *open* during the entire performance of the ceremony, otherwise it could *not* be *closed* at the conclusion of them.

My position in this regard is strengthened by the fact that in Coles’ Maryland Ahirman Rezens and most of the Text-Books which follow to some extent this form in one or more instances, the following words are used at the conclusion of the ceremonies: ‘The Grand Lodge again forms in procession, as at first, and returns to the room *where it was opened*, the laws of the order are rehearsed, and the Grand Lodge is *closed* in ample form.’

I am further fortified in this position by the opinions recently received from four among the most eminent Masonic jurists of our country—Past Grand Masters Drummond of Maine; Robbins, of Illinois; Speed, of Mississippi, and Grand Secretary Singleton of the District of Columbia, who all say the word *adjourn*, as used in the English regulations, can have no other meaning than the one I have given to it.

I received, a few months since, a letter from the distinguished Masonic writer, Bro. Wm J. Hulan, in which he says: ‘When the Grand Lodge (England) assembles for a great function, *as* at Truro, to lay the foundation stone of the Cathedral, we *opened* in ample form, and then adjourned and went in procession to the site. When after labor was over, with our Grand Master we returned to Truro Hall and *closed* the Grand Lodge.’ (*The italics are his.*)

I have found the term '*called off*' only in two Text-Books—Mackey's and Sickle's—in both of which it is used once only (at the laying of corner stones), but in neither of them, nor in any of the many Text-Books that I have examined, is either of the terms *adjourned* or *called off* to be found in the forms for funeral occasions.

Nor am I able to concur in the conclusions of the majority committee, that 'an open *Lodge* cannot appear in public; that when it goes forth even to perform Masonic labor it must be called off.' I not only believe that an *open Lodge* can appear in public, but it is *improper* for a *Lodge* to appear in public otherwise than *open*.

I can conceive of but three states or conditions in which it is possible for a *Lodge* of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons to be—either open and at labor, called off from labor to refreshment, or closed.

If the *Lodge* is closed, the brethren are dispersed; they are no longer permitted to wear Masonic clothing, nor are they subject to the orders of the Master or Wardens. They are simply citizens, and are permitted to follow their own pleasures or to pursue their usual avocations.

If the *Lodge* is called off from labor to refreshment, the Craft is in charge of the Junior Warden. Refreshment does not mean simply eating and drinking, but rest and recreation also. Masonic labor ceases for the time being, as our laboring men and mechanics would say, they have 'knocked off work.' Surely no one can believe that it would be proper to bury a brother or to lay a corner stone with Masonic honors when the Craft is in either of these conditions. It then follows that the labors referred to must be performed when the *Lodge* is in that condition when alone it can do Mason work, that is, when *open*.

There are two kinds of Masonic labor—*esoteric* and *exoteric*. The first can only be performed in an open *Lodge*, by and in the presence of the initiated. The latter may be performed by Masons in public, in a *Lodge* which has been *previously opened esoterically*.

We publish our transactions, and there is no particular care taken that the profane do not read them; as a matter of fact, we send copies of them to our public libraries. Now, if the profane may *read* what has been transacted in a closely-tyled Master Mason's *Lodge*, why may they not *witness* such of our ceremonies as are permitted to be performed in public by Masons, in a *Lodge* that has been *previously and privately opened*? How that *Lodge* was *opened*, and how it will be *closed* again, they may not know.

If it be not an open *Lodge*, why must the Tyler, with the drawn sword in his hand, head the procession? Why are the brethren clothed as Masons, the master and all his officers invested with their jewels of office? the Master also with the gavel, the emblem of his authority, in his hand? the Wardens carrying their columns, the Deacons and Stewards their wands? Why must the Three Great Lights, as well as the Three Lesser Lights, be borne in the procession? (Some jurisdictions requiring the presence of the Charter also.) And why, if the Grand Master be present, although it be only a Subordinate *Lodge*, must the Book of Constitutions be borne before him, and the Sword Bearer follow him? Why, I repeat, must all this formality be observed if it be not an *open Lodge of Masons going forth to perform Masonic labor*?

As I regard the subject embraced in the resolution of Brother Branch to be one of great importance, I devoted much time and labor to an examination of the law as well as the usage of our own and other jurisdictions referring thereto, and I herewith respectfully submit for your consideration the result of such investigation.

The only official action that I can find on our Grand Lodge records upon the subject is the decision of Grand Master Tyson, rendered at the 1885 (November) Communication, and which is as follows :

‘That the Masonic funeral ceremonies is *Masonic work*, and this is the chief reason why none but Masons should participate therein. The Lodge should not be *called off*. It remains open until the members return to the Lodge-room and the Lodge has been closed.’ (Italics are his.)

Upon the recommendation of the Committee (Bros. James W. Bowers, F. J. S. Gorgas and Wm. Cunningham) this as well as the other rulings of the Grand Master, made at the time, were held by the Grand Lodge ‘to be in accordance with Masonic law and usage.’ This action has not been reversed, and is therefore the present law upon the subject; and Brother Branch’s resolution, so far at least as it refers to Masonic funerals, is in harmony therewith.

The resolution is also in harmony with the usages and customs of the fraternity, in this jurisdiction, from the earliest time to within a comparatively recent period, upon other as well as funeral occasions, as will be seen from the following extracts from the records.

In the oldest existing Lodge records in our jurisdiction, those of the old Leonardtown Lodge, we find the following :

‘St. John’s Day, June 25th, 1759. At half past two, the members went from the Lodge room, *without closing the Lodge*, to the Court House, in the following order (the form of procession being the same as it is now,) when after hearing a polite, accurate and most edifying discourse, delivered by our Reverend Brother John McPherson, we returned to the Lodge room in the same order, etc., etc.’

In the proceedings of the Grand Lodge, under date St. John’s Day, June 24, 1795, is recorded the following :

‘The Grand Lodge opened in the First Degree and proceeded to St. Paul’s Church, and after divine service returned to Mr. Bryden’s Tavern, when it was closed.’

St. John’s Day, June 24, 1796 : ‘An Entered Apprentice Lodge was opened, when a procession was formed and marched to Christ Church, where divine service was performed by Grand Chaplain Isaac Foster; from there proceeded to Washington Lodge, No. 3, (Fell’s Point), where the Grand Lodge was closed.’ Similar language is used on many subsequent St. John’s Day celebrations.

There is, unfortunately, very meagre accounts on our records of many of the most important and interesting processions of the Craft in our jurisdiction, but in those we have I find that the Grand Lodge was always opened (or met as per adjourned), formed a procession, performed the duties for which it assembled, returned to the hall, and was *closed*. As for instance, under June 2, 1854, is recorded the following : ‘The Grand Lodge met according to adjournment, formed in procession and proceeded to the house of the deceased, Grand Master John D. Readel, and accompanied the remains to Greenmount Cemetery, where they were interred with the highest Masonic honors. The Grand Lodge then returned to the hall, and was *closed* by the Grand Master.’

And under date March 10, 1857, we read : ‘The Grand Lodge was *opened* in ample form (Grand Master McKenny presiding), and marched in regular Masonic order to join the procession in honor of Brother Elisha Kent Kaue. Upon returning to the hall the Grand Lodge was

called off until 8 o'clock P. M., at which hour it resumed labor, and after adopting the report of the Committee appointed to draft resolutions in honor of the distinguished Brother, the Grand Lodge was *closed*.

At the laying of the corner stone of this Temple, November 20, 1866, the Grand Lodge was *opened on the ground, in the presence of the assembled multitude, according to a printed form distributed among the audience*. The same *printed form* was used at the laying of the corner stone of several Masonic halls and churches in various parts of the State; also at the laying of the corner stone of the City Hall, October 17, 1867, and the new Post Office, in this city, November 21, 1882.

While I am by no means prepared to recommend such a practice, I cite it merely to show that at the times mentioned the idea must have prevailed that the laying of corner stones was *Masonic labor* and must be performed in *open Lodge*.

There is no mention on the records of the Grand Lodge, written or printed, of its having either adjourned or called off on any occasion, when it appeared in public, from its organization until May 31, 1871, on which date the Grand Lodge laid the corner stone of the Deaf and Dumb Asylum at Frederick, the record of which reads: 'The Grand Lodge met at the Court House, opened and then called off, formed a procession, etc., returned, resumed labor and was then closed.'

The next occasion on which the term was used was that of the funeral of Past Master Benjamin C. Howard, March 10, 1872. Grand Master Latrobe, who officiated upon the occasion, being dissatisfied with the *form* for funerals then in use, prepared one himself and used it on the occasion. This meeting with general approval, he had it published, and directed that it should be used on funeral occasions by the Grand Lodge and its subordinates.

This form, a copy of which is now before me, prescribes that the Lodge shall be *opened* in the Master's *Degree*, in which condition the entire proceedings are conducted, at the conclusion of which the Lodge returns to the hall and is *closed*.

But notwithstanding this order of Grand Master Latrobe in 1875, and the *approved* decision of Grand Master Tyson, in 1885, the Grand Lodge, as well as some of its subordinates, have since been in the habit of calling off on funeral occasions, while some of the older Lodges of our State—some of them nearly one hundred years old—never have *called off* on any occasion.

This exhibits a lack of uniformity in our jurisdiction upon a most important usage which I respectfully submit, should not longer be permitted to exist.

I find that the proposed resolution is also in full accord with the practice of nearly all the English speaking Grand Lodges of the world. I have examined the published proceedings of all of them for several years, and among nearly *two hundred* accounts of the laying of corner stones, funerals, dedications of halls in public, St. John's Day celebrations, etc., that I have seen, I have not found more than four or five jurisdictions in which either of the terms *called off*, or *adjourn*, is used. The language almost universally used being as follows: Grand Lodge *opened* in the Entered Apprentice (or Master Mason's) Degree (invariably in the Master's Degree on funeral occasions). The Grand Master stated the object of the special communication, when the Grand Marshal was ordered to form the procession, which then moved to the place where the ceremonies were to be performed, and, at the conclusion thereof, returned and the Grand Lodge was *closed*.

Believing that the doctrine annunciated in the resolutions of Brother Branch is not only in harmony with the usage and custom of the fraternity for the first one hundred years of its existence in the State, but that it is also in accord with the present practice of the greater part of all the Grand Lodges of all the world. I respectfully recommend its adoption."

Fraternally submitted,

EDWARD T. SCHULTZ,

Minority Committee.

A motion was made to adopt the minority report. Upon a call for a vote by Lodges the minority report was adopted.

The Grand Lodge was closed.

JACOB H. MEDAIRY,

Grand Secretary.

In British Columbia Lodges are *not* "called off" on the occasion of Funerals, Laying of Corner Stones or Dedications before the brethren leave the Hall to perform the public ceremonies.

Returns show 6,892 Master Masons, 69 F. C., 90 E. A.
109th Annual, Baltimore, 19th November, 1895.

Anton H. Fetting, R.W.D. Grand Master. Our Representative Bro. Charles W. Hatter, present.

Bro. Shryock opened his *tenth consecutive address* as follows. (He has indeed been highly honored.):—

"BRETHREN: To-night I greet you for the tenth consecutive time as your Grand Master—a decade of years since you first entrusted to my care the responsibilities of the important position. During this period many events have passed into history; many trials and difficulties have been met and surmounted. Our patience and perseverance have been put to the severest test, and we have been tried by Nature's fiercest element—fire. We have passed through and emerged from it better and stronger, more vigorous and hopeful for the future of Masonry within our jurisdiction."

"MAKING A MASON AT SIGHT."

"MASONIC TEMPLE, Tuesday Evening, May 7, 1895.

"The M. W. Grand Master assembled the Grand Officers in his office and informed them he was about to exercise his prerogative of making a Mason at sight.

The Grand Secretary read a petition from Hugh K. Walker, Minister of the Gospel, aged 33 years, recommended by the Grand Master.

The Grand Master and Grand Officers repaired to Fidelity Lodge, No. 136, which was in session.

The M. W. Grand Master assumed the Chair, and the Grand Officers the other stations, when Brother Walker was introduced and initiated, and afterwards passed to the degree of Fellow Craft and raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason in regular order.

The Grand Master and Grand Officers retired, and W. Master and Officers of Fidelity Lodge resumed their stations.

Brother Walker's petition for membership was presented to the Lodge, upon which a ballot was had and he declared elected.

JACOB H. MEDAIRY, *Grand Secretary.*"

Report on Correspondence is by Bro. Edmund T. Schultz, reviewing all the American Grand Lodges in a very fraternal spirit and presenting a bright addition to the proceedings.

British Columbia for 1894 is included.

THOS. J. SHRYOCK (re-elected)
Grand Master.

JACOB H. MEDAIRY, *Grand Secretary*, Baltimore.

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Massachusetts

SEVERAL special communications of Grand Lodge were held for the purpose of participating in the Centennial Celebration of Subordinate Lodges.

The addresses and historical reviews are full of interest.

The following portion of Bro. Post's address will be read with interest, and is also instructive:—

HISTORICAL ADDRESS.

"We are privileged to-day to celebrate the centennial of the existence in this community of a great fraternal and charitable society. The period is short indeed when compared with the mighty reach of time since time began, yet covering a nineteenth part of the world's best era, all of which this society has witnessed, has been a part of.

Is it asked: 'What is Freemasonry?' The answer comes: It is not a secret society. Its objects, methods and history are known of all men. It can scarcely be classed as a private society, for its doors are open to all who are willing to comply with certain reasonable requirements, and are found worthy. Answering to instinctive, uplifting yearnings of humanity, it is rather a great charitable brotherhood—charitable in the broadest and fullest sense, a brotherhood of men, a patron of, a pattern for, all the fraternal associations for good yet devised. Without claiming to be a religious system, it is ever ready to

join the grand chorus that saith unto Zion, 'Thy God reigneth;' and if it has certain peculiar requirements, ceremonies, and forms of recognition, these can certainly be pardoned in view of what it has wrought for our race.

At the eastern end of the Mediterranean there lies a region scarcely equal in area to one of our smaller States; a region chiefly of rock, mountain and desert, though fertile in spots, even to the vine and olive, and all ever wondrously fertile in wars and religions, battle fields and temples. More than Egypt or Persia—more than Greece or Italy—it has filled history. Its chief city, with little advantage of situation and culture, has, more than Athens or Rome, left its imprint on the ages. Here was built a temple, a palace to the unknown God. Here wrought workmen with the best training and skill of Egypt and Persia, under leadership inspired. Their product, after leaving the quarries, needed no further finish. Its accuracy and beauty were the marvel of both the Pagan and Christian world, then and now. They wrought in marble so clear and white that in sheets it served them for windows. They used cement proving to-day to be firmer and harder than the stone it binds. These men had a right to found a Craft; and if, while chronicling the mystic orders of ancient Paganism, and the social bands that represented the best side of Islamism, the cold criticism of secular history questions the origin, it cannot deny beauty to the legend, that links Freemasonry with the glory and splendor of the temple at Jerusalem, a glory and splendor now and ever to be as living, notwithstanding captures and destructions, as when operative masonry there completed its work.

It is one of the fixed laws of nature that all successful growth proceeds from a minute beginning. Causation and consequence are universal. Darwin and Herbert Spencer could have chosen no more fitting illustration of their doctrine of evolution than the origin and career of our Society. Here is certainly the 'Drawing of one thing out of another,' a continuous 'Descent with modifications,' lasting through centuries. Beginning with two degrees of simple aim and method,—in due time adding another, afterwards still others, and finally many others, with higher aims and grander methods,—growing with the growth, strengthening with the strength of human intelligence, till it stands before the world one grand harmonious, symmetrical structure. At first assembling in deep vales or on high hills, afterwards in places of greater convenience and safety. Now always in comfortable halls, and often in palatial temples that are rivalled only by the great churches and cathedrals. At first sharing a frugal meal under a lowly roof with a known Brother, afterwards giving liberally in full fraternal sympathy to a tried Craftsman. Now dispensing to worthy Brothers, their widows and orphans, the income of millions invested in great libraries, colleges and homes. At first admitting only those of kindred hand, now welcoming all of kindred heart.

On the continent of Europe, Masonry seems to have flourished in Germany from very early times. The builders' corporations were largely composed of, and controlled by operative masons, and the transition in the eighteenth century to speculative Masonry, as now known, was easy and effectual. Frederick the Great became a Mason in 1738, and immediately thereafter ascended the throne of Prussia, and became an active patron of the Craft. A century later the then Crown Prince, the late Emperor William III., assumed a like position, and the Society has prospered socially and morally in every part of the nation. In France the Society has existed with varying success, and under different forms, but with most brilliant results, under the First Napoleon, whose brother was a Grand Master. In Italy the Society owes its best success to Garibaldi.

But it is to England and Scotland that we owe the greatest debt of gratitude. For centuries the fires of Freemasonry have never been allowed to slacken on British altars. Most worthy Nobles and Princes, men of letters and men of science, have vied with each other in guiding, improving and protecting the Craft. Men like Sir Christopher Wren, who could see the beauty in architecture, could see the beauty in humanity; and the monuments of such men could be seen around them during life as well as after burial. The British mind first grasped the full meaning of the word 'Fraternity.' Hence to every portion of the English-speaking world have been carried the best spirit and form of Masonry.

Masonry appears to have left its first trace in America, near Annapolis, Nova Scotia, in 1606, the same year that the gallant Smith planted the Saxon race in Virginia, and fourteen years before the Puritan made of Plymouth Rock his stepping-stone to empire. In 1733 and 1735, Lodges were established under English jurisdiction in Massachusetts and in Georgia, and soon after, in 1750, Lodges were similarly established in Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia and the Carolinas. Masonry kept abreast of emigration and settlement. The first commission to a Provincial Grand Master seems to have been issued by the Grand Master of England to Daniel Cox, of New Jersey, in June, 1730, giving him authority over New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. No evidence, however, is found of action under this authority. The commission issued from the same source in April, 1733, to Henry Price, of Boston, giving him authority over New England and its dominions, which authority was afterwards extended over all America, and recognized by Benjamin Franklin, as Grand Master of Pennsylvania, is entitled to the credit of being the first high Masonic authority in this country. The Body over which Price presided was known as St. John's Grand Lodge.

In 1769, a commission was issued from the Grand Master of Scotland, appointing a Grand Master of Masons in Boston, New England, and within one hundred miles of the same. In 1772 this authority was extended over the continent of America. The appointee under this commission was Joseph Warren, the Body over which he presided was known as the Massachusetts Grand Lodge, and one of its officers was Paul Revere—Joseph Warren and Paul Revere, two names destined to remain illustrious, until history forgets to record that men once had to struggle for liberty, in this country. Warren fell at Bunker Hill; the Records of his Grand Lodge have this note: 'Memo, April 19th, 1775, hostilities commenced between the troops of G. Britain and America in Lexington Battle, in consequence of which the town was blockaded, no Lodge held till Dec., 1776'—*a silence most eloquent.*"

At the Quarterly Communications the principal business transacted was the framing of a new Constitution.

M. W. EDWIN B. HOLMES,
Grand Master, Boston.

R. W. SERENO D. NICKERSON,
Grand Secretary, Boston.

Michigan

52ND ANNUAL—SAGINAW—28TH JANUARY, 1896.

Bro. Edwin L. Bowring, M. W. Grand Master.

OUR Representative was present. The Grand Master reported :—

“The steady growth in our membership, the zeal and generous rivalry displayed by the officers and brethren of the constituent lodges, in striving to promote the best interests of our institution, the increased proficiency of the officers of lodges in rendering the work of Masonry, the building of new temples, and the decided improvement made in the preparation and adornment of lodge rooms, and above all, that so few of our members have been removed from earth and earthly scenes during the past year ; these are all causes for mutual congratulation and thanksgiving as we meet once more in our Annual Communication.”

Twenty-two decisions are recorded, of those I submit :—

“The following physical imperfections disqualify a person from receiving the degrees of Masonry : viz.

1. One afflicted with paralysis in his limbs, and who requires the assistance of another person to enable him to walk.

One whose leg is withered, causing him to limp and require the use of a cane in walking.

One who has lost the thumb of his right hand.

One who has lost the third and fourth fingers or a portion of his right hand.

One with a cork leg and foot.

One who is crippled by reason of his foot being crooked and is compelled to walk on the side of his foot.

The Grand Secretary, Bro. Conover, is nothing if not original—he presented his report in Rhyme—this is a specimen :—

ANNUAL RETURNS.

“I believe the Secretaries tried to work a job on me
For the way they hustled them returns was just a sight to see ;
They come in great big armfuls till the postman fairly swore
That he wished them pesky fellers would let up a little more.

I reckon them air fellers are an awful jolly crew,
And they laughed and chuckled hugely over what they meant to do ;
They humped themselves, spit on their hands, an' grabbed hold of the pen,
And the way they slung the ink around was a caution to all men.

I most believe that Dowling was the man that planned the work,
And that Winsor urged the boys along an' told 'em not to shirk.
But to fairly bury Conover beneath a pile so big,
If he ever saw daylight again, he'd surely have to dig.

But I sat still and watched the pile as it 'rose, an' 'rose, an' 'rose,
And when the boys got through their fun it didn't reach my nose;
They had missed their calculations, an' I knew their jig was up,
For them frisky Secretaries hadn't rightly sized me up.

So I winked my eye and told my clerk we'd show them boys a trick.
And we'd hustle through that pile so soon 'twould fairly make 'em sick;
The way we 'rastled them returns would have made you laff to see,
But we got 'em done about as quick as they tumbled onto me.

We worked and got 'em straightened up, an' sorted out the pile,
An' then I fairly hugged myself, an' smiled a great big smile,
For them jolly Secretaries had done their work so well,
There was really only three or four that I longed to send to—well,

That ought to go to 'ritin school an' improve their hands a bit,
Till you wouldn't think, to see their work, 'twas by a lawyer 'rit
But come to take 'em all in all, I'll challenge any state.
To show a lot of Secretaries nearer up to date.

'Most all of the four hundred are a splendid lot of boys;
They do their work 'right up to snuff' altho' they make no noise;
And all but one made out returns, an' most'y in good time;
May they live long, and finally up Jacob's ladder climb."

The Grand Lodge of New Zealand was accorded recognition by the adoption of the following resolution :

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of Michigan :

Your Committee on Correspondence beg leave to submit the following report, and recommend the adoption thereof :

At the Annual Communication of this Grand Lodge in 1891, our late Brother Innes, then chairman of this committee, made a report upon the request of the Grand Lodge of New Zeland for recognition, and recommended that action be deferred for a year or more, that more definite information concerning the status of that Grand Lodge might be obtained.

A thorough investigation now shows that this Grand Lodge was regularly organized and has been working successfully for the past five years. It has now over one hundred Lodges working under it, and has been officially recognized by nearly all American and all Canadian Grand Lodges. Your committee therefore offer the following resolution and ask its adoption :

Resolved. That the Grand Lodge of New Zeland, be and is hereby recognized as a sovereign Grand Lodge and is fraternally welcomed into the ever lengthening chain of Grand Lodges, and that an exchange of representatives be effected between our Grand Lodge and that of New Zealand.

Fraternally submitted,

JEFFERSON S. CONOVER,

Committee.

Returns show 381 Lodges. 37,706 members,

Report on Correspondence is "Boiled down and run through Conover's condenser." B. C. for 1895 included.

Bro. Conover has wasted no time or words in his report and we feel sorry to see it so, as he is capable of giving us his ideas, and hope that his "condenser" will not get out of order next year.

JOHN J. CARTEN, Flint,

M. W. Grand Master.

JEFFERSON S. CONOVER, Coldwater,

R. W. Grand Secretary.

53rd Communication, Saginaw, 26th January, 1897.

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Minnesota

PREPARATORY to opening the Grand Lodge, Bro. Calvin L. Brown, Grand Master, opened a Lodge of Master Masons. The roll having been called the Grand Lodge was opened in Ample Form. From the address it is learned that brethren to the number of fourteen thousand are on the roll of membership and are esteemed among the best citizens of the State, and that the Grand Lodge rejoices in a "well-replenished treasury." Bro. Brown found it wise to grant dispensations for the formation of three new Lodges, which were afterwards chartered. Other dispensations had been granted, but they were in the line of precedent, and no attempt to establish new ones was indulged in.

Improbation of character at Masonic trials received this illustration :

"I advised that the impeachment of witnesses in a Masonic trial should not be allowed. I mean by impeachment, the calling of one witness to testify or swear that he would not believe his brother witness on oath, or that the reputation of such witness for truth and veracity is bad. There is too much personal enmity displayed in such matters—too much hatred and ill-will, and generally, too little real truth or real fact to the impeaching evidence to warrant its toleration in a society whose members meet each other on the level, and among whom should exist those sentiments of brotherly love and affection taught and inculcated by the symbolic use of the trowel."

Among the things the Brother refused to do were, to suspend the operation of the by-law of a subordinate ; except in two instances, to grant permission to receive and act on petitions in less than the regulation time ; to review the ruling of a presiding Master at the instance of a floor member by direct communication.

In consequence of the removal of members and decadence of one of the Lodges the charter was withdrawn.

Bro. Brown presented this contribution on the subject of charity—the greatest ashlar in the foundation of the Order, and one which is attracting as much attention among the thinkers of the Craft as any other, in the relation of donor or dispenser :

“Charity, one of our greatest and best principles, in its broadest sense, means kindness of heart. It is not acquired by habit, by cultivation, nor by association. It is a sentiment, or condition, of the heart given us by our Divine Maker. As individuals we are all willing to render to our fellow-men such aid and comfort as our circumstances will permit. As Masons we are not only willing, but it is our duty to render such aid and assistance. Every Mason in poor and destitute circumstances has the right to ask and demand it. How best to extend and bestow it is a matter about which we may not all agree. Whether we consider it from the standpoint of kindness or of duty, the question whether the Lodge or brethren where the destitute brother happens to be located, either temporarily or permanently, should be required or expected to provide the proper and necessary relief, or whether the Lodge to which the brother belongs should do so, is a question which might very properly be definitely regulated in all the Grand Jurisdictions by some suitable and uniform rule.”

This was supplemented by the Committee on Jurisprudence in the following language, which was adopted :

“The rule adopted and which prevails in this Grand Lodge jurisdiction is that the wayfaring brother in distress is entitled to relief from any Masonic brother to whom he applies, so far as his ability will permit, without injury to himself, and that this relief should be extended without hope of fee or expectation of reward. This Grand Lodge has, by affirmative regulation, enacted that no brother or subordinate Lodge extending relief to a wayfaring brother in distress, shall apply for or ask, directly or indirectly, reimbursement or reward for such relief, and we deem such rule as reflecting the true and correct principle and basis for Masonic relief. Your committee recommend that this Grand Lodge fraternally decline to acquiesce in the proposition made.”

The Grand Orator delivered the annual oration, which was of much interest, and a scholarly production. It is with regret that it cannot be transcribed as a whole for the edification of this constituency.

This reviewer has tried to prepare a *resume* in condensed form, but has utterly failed to reduce the oration to the means at his disposal without emasculation of essentials.

From the Committee on Ancient Landmarks these thoughts, with the poetical ullusion to the nautilus :

"The origin of the ceremony of the laying of corner-stones dates far back in the history of the venerable past in connection with our ancient craft. What the institution has accomplished in the past is well known. Its productions as an operative society are no mean monuments of its glory. We are indebted to it for most of those splendid and magnificent structures which, even at the present day, point their aspiring domes toward the heaven of heavens, and beneath which man breathes his prayers of peace and gladness. To their predecessors in the craft mankind are indebted for those majestic monuments of human skill, the pyramids of Egypt, which, though many thousand years have passed away, still exist ; also the temples of Thebes and Memphis, whose colossal ruins are to this day the wonder and admiration of the traveler. Perropolis, with its splendid palatial edifices of cedar ; Babylon, with her hanging-gardens ; Nineveh, with her mighty walls ; Baalbec and Palmyra, majestic even in their ruins ; the labyriuths of Egypt, Lemnos, and Crete, and the marble glories of Greece. * * *

"An American poet has found the analogy and parable of such a growth in the shell of the chambered nautilus, which, beginning with but a tiny knob, advanced in its spiral growth year by year until it expanded into the completed size ; and then, when its life-work was accomplished, and the life within it ceased to be, was left upon the sandy seashore the deserted tenement of a life which had fulfilled its task and passed away. And interpreting that parable as a lesson of human life, he sang its sermon to his own spiritual nature :

" Build thee more stately mansions, O my soul,
As the swift seasons roll,
Leave the low vaulted past,
Let each new temple, grander than the last,
Shut thee from heaven by a dome more vast,
Till thou at length art free,
Leaving thine unknown shell on Time's unresting sea ! "

Bro. Irving Todd presented the Correspondence report on behalf of the committee.

In reviewing New Jersey he dissents from one of the decisions rendered by Bro. Durand—that one acting as counsel cannot be deprived of his right of vote as member, and says : "The second decision is somewhat surprising, bias being generally considered a prime disqualification for judging upon the merits of a case."

There is no estoppel of the vote of a member in good standing. This status can only be impugned by due process of law—the preferment of charges and consequences of guilt.

In practice in the courts of law, notwithstanding his forensic skill and supreme effort in defence, counsel sometimes, in his heart of hearts, consents to the guilt of his client. The vote in this instance, in a Masonic Lodge, is by secret ballot, or at least it so obtains in New Jersey, and should be governed by conscience.

CALVIN L. BROWN,

Grand Master.

THOMAS MONTGOMERY,

Grand Secretary.

—:O:—

Montana

31ST ANNUAL—HELENA—9TH OCTOBER, 1895.

Bro. James H. Monteith, M. W. Grand Master.

OUR Representative not reported present.

The Grand Master's address reported: "The year just closed has been a comparatively uneventful one in the history of this Jurisdiction, and as far as my observation has gone we have enjoyed our full average measure of peace, harmony and prosperity."

Decisions recorded are few, and contain nothing of interest outside the Jurisdiction.

Returns show 39 Lodges with 2,491 members—gain of 137 for the year.

The "Fraternal Correspondence"—not at all an inappropriate name—is by the Grand Secretary, Bro. Cornelius Hedges, which, as usual, is an interesting, instructive and carefully prepared review of Grand Lodge proceedings.

British Columbia for 1894 has its place and share of comment.

Of our Correspondence Report he says:—

"Past Grand Master Marcus Wolfe gives another correspondence report, which he says he has thoroughly enjoyed. Prepared in such a spirit, readers will enjoy it, too. He has the faculty, a fortune in itself, of seeing something good everywhere. He makes generous quotations. Montana has a pleasant notice. He makes a good suggestion, not enough heeded, that the evil of non-affiliation springs mostly from the introduction of poor material among the workmen. Quality should be regarded, rather than quantity, and the unquestioned right of secret ballot ought to guard the entrance better than it does. Our Bro. thinks it a pity that there is such a difference of opinion on what are the ancient landmarks. The very implicit respect we are taught and bound to pay to the genuine landmarks of the Order naturally makes us cautious about thus canonizing many modern innovations. When sifted down, there are very few of these landmarks, and the prerogative of making new ones belongs to enlightened reason, guided by wisdom and justice. We rejoice in the many evidences of prosperous growth among our brethren of the North Pacific slope."

M. W. JAMES H. MILLS,
Grand Master, Helena.

R. W. CORNELIUS HEDGES,
Grand Secretary, Helena.

32nd Annual, Butte, 3rd Wednesday, Sept. 1896.

—:O:—

Mississippi

78TH ANNUAL—JACKSON—20TH FEBRUARY, 1896.

M. W. James T. Harrison, Grand Master.

OUR Representative not recorded present.

The Grand Master's opening remarks contain a beautiful vein of sentiment : --

"Let my first act, then, on this occasion, be to thank you for your loving kindness, expressed by gentle forbearance; for I can of a very truth remark--my hopes have not been in vain--for my 'trust was well founded.' To admit that I have erred is but to say that I am human and yet, your brotherly love has so encompassed me that my ears have never caught the faintest echo of a chiding.

I esteem it, then, a proud and happy distinction to have held the gavel of authority over such an imposing array of unsurpassable men. May the kindness that you have bestowed upon me be returned seven fold to you and yours by Him who holds the destinies of men in His hands and dispenses mercies in the magnitude of His abundance. May these mercies follow after you as regularly and unceasingly as the ebb and flow of the tide of the sea and be as certain as the judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction, which imports absolute verity.

And, while our thoughts are thus turned to Him, let us bow with grateful hearts that we have been thus permitted, since our last Grand Communication still to rest in the 'hollow of His hand,' and that the glory of His smile has lit the pathways that have brought us together again. Let us also rejoice that our great Republic has been permitted to nestle under the snowy wings of the white Angel of Peace, and yet be mindful that 'wars and rumors of wars' are disturbing outside nations; and with uplifted faces and dewy eyes ask our Grand Master on high to calm the storms political that threaten their destruction.

In this connection we point with pride to the fact our brethren in the mother country and this are actively engaged in diffusing the grand twin doctrines of charity and forbearance, so close'y united in Masonry, that a better and kinder understanding may be arrived at by and between the two nations.

Surely it is not an idle boast that Freemasonry is the universal Order of humanity, and fully recognizes the common brotherhood of man. May all such efforts meet with success and the world know of a truth that *love* is a heaven-inherited quality and that man, so perfected by this divine endowment, is not only nature's grandest possibility, but is higher in the order of existence than an archangel.

And last, but not least, let us proffer grateful acknowledgements that our unrivaled Order has not only been permitted to shed its lustre over the dark ages of the dim past, but has been allowed to keep not only abreast, but in advance of modern progress, until its beacon light is like a sentinel in the tower.

It gives me pleasure to announce that Freemasonry in this Grand Jurisdiction is prospering, and it goes without saying, that our increase is only from the best element of the commonwealth.

When, as is known, the unwritten rule of our Order is neither to praise it to an outsider nor solicit membership, the fact of said increase can only be considered from the standpoint of its beneficence.

Let me welcome you then to this Grand Communication and impress upon you at the same time the important objects of its convocation. Let us with sobriety and wisdom attain those objects, that as individuals we may be improved, and the good of the Craft advanced."

The Grand Lodge of Oklahoma was accorded Fraternal recognition.

All questions on Masonic Law and Jurisprudence are referred to the Committee, who have made a most exhaustive report, and whose rulings appear to be in harmony with the laws of the jurisdiction.

He ruled that an Entered Apprentice who has had his left arm amputated since initiation could be advanced. Quite correct.

The Grand Lodge of Victoria was accorded fraternal recognition.

The following, on the Grand Master's prerogative to make a Mason at sight was adopted.

SPECIAL LAW REPORT ADOPTED.

The special report of the Committee on Masonic Law and Jurisprudence on the prerogative of the Grand Master to make Masons at sight was then read and unanimously adopted, as follows:

To the Most Worshipful, the Grand Lodge:

The Committee on Masonic Law and Jurisprudence beg leave to report that they have given mature consideration to so much of their report of last year relating to the making of Masons at sight by the Grand Master, as was recommitted, with instructions to report at this annual communication.

We have carefully re-read the voluminous arguments, pro and con, which have been written on this subject, so far as they are accessible to us, a mere summary of which would exhaust your patience, and we fear add but little to a correct solution of the question as to whether or not the Grand Master ever possessed such a prerogative, for the reason that most of what has been written is merely assertive or in denial of the alleged prerogative, according to the bias of the writer, without citing historical authority for or against the doctrine.

In 1853, this Grand Lodge adopted, after full discussion, as we infer from the record, a report written by Past Grand Master Mellen, in which it is distinctly asserted that the Grand Master has the prerogative of making Masons at sight and we regard this as fully committing this Grand Lodge to the doctrine. The argument of the report is the same as that of the late Dr. Mackey, who claimed that it was a landmark, but as Bro. Mellen's report embraced extraneous matter, we think that we can best present the precise question which we are considering by following the line of Bro. Mackey's argument, as contained in his work on Masonic Jurisprudence, where it is as clearly and forcibly presented as by any writer who has written on the subject.

He says the claim that the Grand Master has the prerogative of making Masons at sight is based upon two of his so-called landmarks, which were by him numbered seventh and eighth, as follows:—

LANDMARK SEVENTH.

The prerogative of the Grand Master to give dispensations for opening and holding Lodges, is another landmark. He may grant in virtue of this, to a sufficient number of Masons, the privilege of meeting together and conferring degrees. The Lodges thus established are called Lodges under Dispensation. They are strictly creatures of the Grand Master, created by his authority, existing only during his will and pleasure, and liable at any moment to be dissolved at his command. They may be continued for a day, a month, or six months; but whatever be the period of their existence, they are indebted for that existence solely to the grace of the Grand Master.

LANDMARK EIGHTH.

The prerogative of the Grand Master to make Masons at sight is a landmark which is closely connected with the preceding one. There has been much misapprehension in relation to this landmark, which misapprehension has sometimes led to a denial of its existence in jurisdictions where the Grand Master was perhaps at the very time substan-

tially exercising the prerogative, without the slightest remark or opposition. It is not to be supposed that the Grand Master can retire with a profane into a private room, and there, without assistance, confer the degrees of Freemasonry upon him. No such prerogative exists, and yet many believe that this is the so much talked of right of 'making Masons at sight.' The real mode and the only mode of exercising the prerogative is this: The Grand Master summoned to his assistance not less than six other Masons, convenes a Lodge, and without any previous probation, but *on sight* of the candidate, confers the degrees upon him, after which he dissolves the Lodge, and dismisses the brethren. Lodges thus convened for special purposes are called 'Occasional Lodges.' This is the only way in which any Grand Master within the records of the institution has ever been known to 'make a Mason at sight.' The prerogative is dependent upon that of granting dispensations to open and hold Lodges. If the Grand Master had the power of granting to any other Mason the privilege of presiding over Lodges working by his dispensation, he may assume this privilege of presiding to himself; and as no one can deny his right to revoke his dispensation granted to a number of brethren at a distance, and to dissolve the Lodge at his pleasure, it will scarcely be contended that he may not revoke his dispensation for a Lodge over which he himself has been presiding, within a day, and dissolve the Lodge as soon as the business for which he has assembled it is accomplished. The making of Masons at sight is only the conferring of the degrees by the Grand Master, at once, in an occasional Lodge, constituted by his dispensing power for the purpose, and over which he presides in person. Mackey's *Masonic Jurisprudence*, page 22, et seq.: We have given in full the argument of this illustrious author and Masonic student as being the best presentation of the claim that the prerogative exists which we have met; it is true that others have used more words, but Bro. Mackey's statement is in substance the entire argument. With all due respect for Bro. Mackey, we are forced to say that probably no claim was ever built up upon a flimsier foundation and we think that it would be impossible to find a greater number of mis-statements of the law governing any important question, which has occupied Masonic writers for nearly half a century. But it is to be remembered that at the time when Bro. Mackey wrote, Masons were much more credulous than they now are, in the light of recent investigations into the truth of alleged Masonic history.

It is not true now, and never was, that Lodges are created by virtue of any prerogative of the Grand Master. Originally the privilege of meeting and conferring degrees, says Bro. Mackey, in a note appended to the quotation from him which we have made, was inherent in all Masons as individuals and according to Preston, page 150, *Illustrations*, American edition, 'a sufficient number of Masons met together within a certain district, with the consent of the sheriff or chief magistrate of the place, were empowered at this time to make Masons, and practice the rights of Masonry without the warrant of constitution. The privilege was inherent in themselves as individuals; and this privilege is still enjoyed by the two old Lodges now extant, which act by immemorial constitution.'

According to the same authority 'on the 27th day of December, 1663, a general assembly was held at which several useful regulations were made;' among other regulations made at this assembly were the following:

1. That no person of what degree soever, be made or accepted a Freemason unless in a regular Lodge, whereof one be a Master or Warden in that limit or division where such Lodge is kept, and another be a Craftsman in the trade of Freemasonry.

5. That for the future the said Fraternity of Freemasons shall be regulated and governed by one Grand Master, and as many Wardens as the said Society shall think fit to appoint at every annual general assembly. Preston's Illustrations, 134.

To understand this matter more clearly, says Dr. Oliver in a note to Preston, page 109, it may be necessary to advert to the original institution of that assembly called a general or Grand Lodge. It was not then restricted, as it is understood now to be, to the Masters and Wardens of private Lodges, with the Grand Master and his Wardens at their head; it consisted of as many of the Fraternity *at large*, as, being within a convenient distance, could attend, once or twice in a year, under the auspices of one general head, who was elected and installed at one of these meetings and who, for the time being, received homage as the sole governor of the whole body. The idea of confining the privileges of Masonry, by a warrant of constitution, to certain individuals convened on certain days at certain places, had then no existence. There was but one family among Masons, and every Mason was a branch of that family. It is true, the privileges of the different degrees of the Order always centered in certain members of the Fraternity, who, according to their advancement in the art, were authorized by the ancient charges to assemble in, hold, and rule Lodges, at their will and discretion, in such places as best suited their convenience, and when so assembled, to receive pupils and deliver instructions in the art; but all the tribute from these individuals, separately and collectively, rested ultimately in the general assembly, to which all the Fraternity might repair, and to whose award all were bound to pay submission.

At the reorganization of Masonry in the year 1717, so much of the Regulation of 1663, as defines what constitutes a 'regular Lodge,' was taken into a new draft as follows:

"The privilege of assembling as Masons, which has been hitherto unlimited, shall be vested in certain Lodges or assemblies of Masons, convened in certain places; and *every* Lodge to be hereafter convened, except the four old Lodges at this time existing, shall be legally authorized to act by *warrant* from the Grand Master for the time being, granted to certain individuals *by petition* with the *consent* and approbation of the Grand Lodge in communication; and without such warrant no Lodge shall be hereinafter deemed *regular* or constitutional."

It would seem that no intelligent examination of the history of the very enactments upon which it is sought to support the prerogative, could result in any other conclusion than that the time never was when Lodges were the creation of a Grand Master; they have always been since 1663 subject to the regulation of the general assembly, which ordained that Masons should thereafter be made in "regular Lodges," and the Craft governed by a Grand Master and Wardens of its appointing, and the only question regarding them which was within the discretion of the Grand Master was whether a dispensation should issue pursuant to constitutional authority and regulation. He granted or refused a dispensation to form a new Lodge to a "sufficient number of Masons" in accordance with the law of the Grand Lodge; the Grand Lodge prescribing the number, fees, jurisdiction and every other incident of their formation. It is as absurd to say that a Lodge under dispensation is the creature of the Grand Master, as it would be to say that an officer of the United States appointed pursuant to an act of Congress by the President, is a creature of the President, instead of the law of the land. But it is said "the privilege of meeting and conferring the degrees was originally inherent in all Masons, as individuals, then it must be inherent in the Grand Master, and was therefore his prerogative, as well as every other

member of the Craft. But at the reorganization of the Order in 1717, the Masons as a body, surrendered this prerogative to the Grand Lodge but they could not surrender the prerogative of the Grand Master, for it was not theirs to surrender." Note page 23, Mackey Jur. It seems to us that if an inherent right could be taken from one Mason that it could be taken from another and that the Grand Master surrendered, that is if there was one, not in 1717 as Bro. Mackey states, but in 1663, whatever inherent rights he may have had, when the others surrendered the identical right, no more inherent in him than in the rest of them. And if he reserved de hors the record, his right, is there not the same evidence that there were some others who did not surrender either and might they not have asserted the right to go on making Masons in the good old way practiced before 1663? There is nothing whatever to show that the Earl of St. Albans, who is said to have presided as Grand Master at the general assembly, reserved any prerogative to himself and his successors. The truth is that the whole argument is as flimsy as cobwebs and will not bear examination in any light.

The prerogative of making Masons at sight, says Mackey, is closely connected with the prerogative of Grand Masters to give dispensations for opening and holding Lodges and he illustrates by asserting that whenever the Grand Master granted his dispensation to an unchartered Lodge to dispense with the necessary probation, and was present and presiding at the conferring of the degrees, he was virtually making a Mason at sight. But since 1753 it has not been within the power of the Grand Master to dispense with the regulation adopted in that year, 'that no Lodge shall ever make a Mason without due inquiry into his character.' The last clause of this regulation authorized him to grant a dispensation to make and raise a brother at one and the same meeting, but did not extend to dispensing with due inquiry as to character. This regulation reads as follows:

'That no Lodge shall ever make a Mason without due inquiry into his character; neither shall any Lodge be permitted to make and raise the same brother, at one and the same meeting, without a dispensation from the Grand Master, which, on very particular occasions only, may be requested.'

It will be seen that at the reorganization in 1717 the regulation of 1663 was not repealed, but rather it was re-enacted and the addition made regarding the conferring of more than one degree on the same day upon any one individual, which could only be by dispensation from the Grand Master. It seems to have escaped the attention of those who contend for the high prerogative idea, that the paragraph is broken into two distinct parts by the semi-colon and that the portion relating to it is quite distinct from that regarding the making of Masons, and while the latter is subject to the dispensing power, the former is not.

If the office of Grand Master is older than written constitutions, a theory once prevalent but which has been refuted time and again and in support of which not a shadow of authority, says Bro. Parvin, has ever been adduced, then it is certain that whatever prerogative he may have previously had to create Lodges of his own will and pleasure terminated, for thereafter dispensations could only be granted 'with the consent and approbation of the Grand Lodge.' The power of consenting carries with it the power of denying and thus the entire matter was vested in the Grand Lodge, where it has remained ever since. The privilege of meeting and conferring the degrees, as has been said, was originally inherent in all Masons, as individuals; this being so it would seem that when that privilege was surrendered that it carried with it the 'prerogative' of the Grand Master to do precisely the same thing, for there is nothing

to show that he held it independent of all other Masons ; on the contrary the fact, if there be any foundation of fact to the claim, must have been that he held it in common with the entire body of the Craft. Bro. Mackey's argument was that the whole body of Masons could not surrender the prerogative of the Grand Master because it was not theirs to surrender, but he seems to have overlooked that a right common to all cannot be a prerogative belonging exclusively to one. But even if it were a prerogative it might have been surrendered as has been done in numerous instances by privileged classes since the world began. If a right could be taken from one Mason it could be from all, and it was, unless it can be shown that it was expressly reserved. Neither the alleged regulation of 1663 nor that of 1717 contains any such reservation, except as to the four old Lodges, and, by every rule of construction, the absence of such a reservation would be fatal to its further existence.

It is strange that such a prerogative is not mentioned in Anderson's Constitutions or the Ancient Charges or Old Regulations, which were published in 1723, but that it was left to slumber until Laurence Dermott, the Grand Secretary of the Sysmatic Grand Lodge, April 16th, 1777, should have brought it to light, sixty years after the reorganization took place and when every participant was dead. Here is the record as Dermott made it upon that day at the Stewards Lodge or Committee on Charity. Dermott stated that 'although the Grand Master had full power and authority to make (in his presence, or cause to be made) Masons, when and where he pleased, yet he could not oblige any Lodge to admit the persons (so made) as members, without the unanimous consent of such Lodge, and if the Grand Master made use of his privilege in making of Masons, he ought to have made a sufficient number of them to form a Lodge and grant them a warrant, by which means they would be entitled to registry, or otherwise not.' 'This ruling of the Stewards,' says the great English Masonic historian, Robert Freck Gould, 'was afterwards inserted by Dermott as a note to 'Old Regulation XIII' in 'Ahiman Rezon,' 1778, 'and has served as the foundation of authority, upon which a strange doctrine called 'Making Masons at sight' has been erected,' Gould, page 462, Vol. IV. A critical examination of the Old Regulation to which Dermott appended this note, fails to disclose anything which serves as a foundation for the note itself and it would be as appropriate elsewhere in his compilation.

So far we have confined ourselves to a traverse of the old and time-worn arguments which have amused our brethren in the past, when Masonic history was of that mythical character which prevails in all the earlier Masonic writings, but which has been dispelled before the noon-day sun which in recent years has penetrated its veil of mystery, and to-day the writer who treats Masonic history as he would a work on mythology, would simply become laughing stock for all intelligent Masons. In the light which such works as that of Robert Freck Gould and the labors of William James Hughan and others who have investigated and written Masonic history as philosophical truth, have thrown upon which the arguments we have endeavored to meet, they vanish as vapor before the noonday sun, and must be relegated to the domain of fairy tales; for the most part they were purely the efforts of the imagination of those who wrote, and the more is the pity, for most of us who belong to the generation of Masons who read as gospel truth the teachings of the venerable array of frauds who catered to the Masonic thirst for knowledge, thirty years ago, have had to painfully unlearn much that we learned with painstaking care. It would doubtless have startled the brethren who composed the Grand Lodge of 1853 to hear us now say that we fully agree with such Masons as Albert Pike and Theodore S. Parvin in

the statement that 'there is absolutely no evidence that there ever was a Grand Master in England, or a general assembly of Masons held there, before Sayer was elected in 1717.'

We are not insensible to the fact that in this Grand Lodge, and in a number of others, the doctrine that the Grand Master possesses powers and prerogatives which are not subject to the control of the Grand Lodge, has been maintained, and we give due weight to the learning, zeal and Masonic character of the large number of eminent Masons who have sustained the claim, but notwithstanding the great array of names which may be cited against us, we fail to find in the arguments presented a single reference to any ancient law which gives, as we conceive, even by implication, to the Grand Master the right to set aside a law of the Grand Lodge, and without so doing he cannot make a Mason at sight. But, granting for the sake of the argument, that he formerly possessed such a prerogative, we are confronted by the fact that every Grand Master in modern times is obligated at least thrice to support and maintain the Constitution and regulations of the Grand Lodge, and we think, therefore, that if they do not confer upon him the power of setting aside their provisions regarding the initiation of candidates that he must be deemed to have waived whatever prerogatives he may have anciently possessed, by assuming the obligation of office. He is not above the law, but if possible, more than any other Mason, bound to support and maintain it in all its integrity. Without entering into argument to demonstrate that the Grand Master is a constitutional officer, it seems very clear to us that he is at least bound by the maxim in Masonry that "those things which are not permitted to a Mason are clearly prohibited." Drummond, page 552, History of Masonry. "It is not permitted now, nor has it been since 1717, to make a Mason "except in a regular Lodge," nor since 1753, until due inquiry has been made as to his character, nor without the unanimous consent of the members of a Lodge, which qualification is not the subject of a dispensation. VIth Reg.

Our conclusion therefore is that the prerogative of making a Mason at sight does not exist and has not since 1717, or if those who contend for exploded Masonic history prefer it, since 1663, and we recommend the adoption of the following :

Resolved, That it is the sense of this Grand Lodge that the prerogative of making a Mason at sight does not exist by virtue of any landmark or ancient regulation, and is not conferred by the Constitution or Laws of this Grand Lodge.

Fraternally submitted,

FREDERIC SPEED,
WILLIAM G. PAXTON,
B. A. VAUGHAN,

Committee."

The "Liquor Question" in this Jurisdiction is very strict and rigidly enforced. It excludes all persons engaged in selling liquor either by wholesale or retail.

Returns show 269 Lodges, with 8891 members.

Report on Correspondence is by Bro. Andrew H. Barkley, who gives us a fraternal review of Sister Grand Lodges in his usual style of extract and comment—British Columbia for 1894 included.

Bro. Barkley is also somewhat of a humorist—*re* our Grand Lodge Banquet he says :—

"The banquet given in honor of the Grand Lodge, and to which its members were all invited, was a grand success, and after the brethren had fully discussed the luxuries provided, and had spent some time in toasting and replying, the Grand Secretary informs us that toward the end, it is safe to say, 'fraternal feeling was greatly augmented,' and thus the feast ended, every brother esteemed his neighbor better than himself and went home with mellow feelings towards his spouse, who had anxiously awaited his return until the small hours of the morning."

JAMES F. MCCOOL,
Grand Master, Kosciusko.

J. L. POWER,
Grand Secretary, Jackson.

79th Annual, Biloxi, 2nd Thursday, February, 1897.

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Missouri

75TH ANNUAL—JEFFERSON CITY—15TH OCTOBER, 1895.

J. B. Thomas, M. W. Grand Master.

WHO reported : "That peace and harmony exist between this Grand Lodge and all the Grand Lodges with which we are in fraternal intercourse."

This amongst his decisions :

"A Brother asks : 'Will I be sustained if I refuse to obligate a candidate who refuses to swear, but persists in affirming?'"

Decision—Let him affirm. An affirmation is as binding as an oath ; all civilized countries that I know of recognize an affirmation in all courts. And an individual would be guilty of prejury at common law for falsely testifying when affirming the same as if he had sworn. The London Freemason's Quarterly (1828, p. 286) says that 'A Quaker's affirmation is binding.' Brother Chase (Masonic Digest, p. 448) says that 'Conferring the degrees on affirmation is no violation of the spirit of Freemasonry, and neither overthrows or affects a landmark.' And in this he is sustained by the Grand Lodge of Maine."

I am inclined to the view taken on the above by the Board of Jurisprudence, Grand Lodge of Canada (see extract) although there may be a distinction without a difference.

Report on Correspondence is by Bro. John D. Vincil, Grand Secretary, who most ably reviews the proceedings of 52 Grand Lodges. British Columbia, as he remarks "Is not in it," our Proceedings having failed to reach him. Bro. Vincil has been eighteen years in this field, and may he long continue.

A. M. HOUGH,

Grand Master, Jefferson.

JOHN D. VINCIL,

Grand Secretary, St. Louis.

76th Annual, St. Louis, 20th October, 1896.

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Nebraska

38TH ANNUAL—OMAHA—12TH JUNE, 1895.

M. W. John A. Ehrhardt, Grand Master.

(9) ON the "Wisconsin Question" he said:—

APPEALS FOR AID AND MASONIC RELIEF.

"In the month of March I received a communication from a committee appointed by the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin, composed of M.W. Wm. C. Swain, P.G.M., M. W. N. M. Littlejohn, P.G.M., and R.W. John Corscot, P.G.S.W., which communication was approved by the Grand Master of Wisconsin, M.W. Brother H. W. Sawyer, touching the question of Masonic relief, and suggesting the following proposition: 'It is the duty of each Lodge to take care of its own members in distress, wherever they may be. In case of its inability so to do, this duty devolves upon the Grand Lodge from which it holds its charter; it being understood that in no case is the Lodge furnishing relief and asking reimbursement to go beyond actual necessities without express authority from the reimbursing body.'

I submit the proposition for your consideration with the suggestion that this plan is diametrically opposed to the conclusions of the Fraternal Masonic Congress held in 1893.

But this Grand Lodge ought to adopt one plan or the other, as our experience in the past few years would seem to indicate that we are trying in part to carry out both plans. We order our Lodges to make

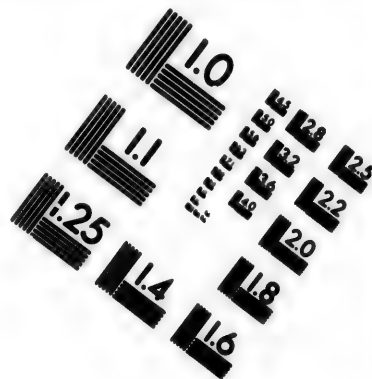
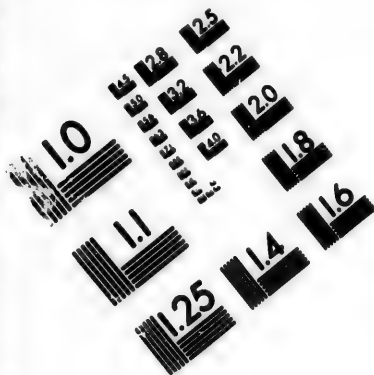
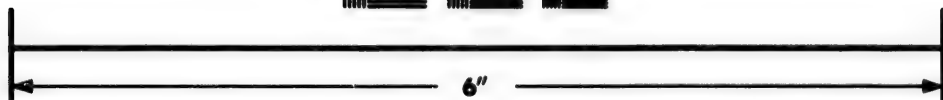
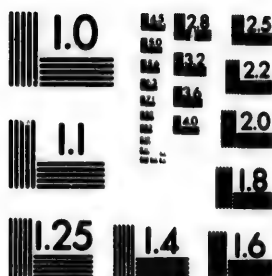


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reimbursements, as was the case with our Jordon Lodge in 1893, and Garfield Lodge in 1894. Let us have a definite expression on the subject from this Grand Jurisdiction."

The Committee on Jurisprudence Report was adopted, viz. :—

" This Grand Lodge recommend the same modified as follows :

' It is the duty of each lodge to take care of its own members in distress, wherever they may be ; it being understood that in no case is the lodge furnishing relief and asking reimbursement to go beyond actual necessities without express authority from the reimbursing body.'

I made very few decisions during the year that are of sufficient importance to be reported.

Returns show 11,770 Master Masons—net gain of 284 for the year.

Most of the United States Grand Lodges have a Grand Orator who delivers at the Annual Session an Oration which takes the place of our Sermon by the Grand Chaplain. Delaware, in the person of Bro. Benjamin F. Thomas, has an Orator and Mason to be proud of. I only wish space would permit the reproduction of his masterly and spirited contribution to Masonic literature.

Report on Correspondence is by Bro. Wm. R. Bowen, who has a very happy, humorous view in his writing. As an example we extract British Columbia for 1894 :

" If the deposit be made *in* the corner-stone, it is claimed that the stone is no longer perfect, and that the deposit should be put in the stone *beneath* the corner-stone ; in British Columbia it is put *within* the corner-stone.

Nearly fifteen hundred dollars were this year expended for relief ; ' every return correctly made up was in by the specified time ; ' the charity fund amounts to about seven thousand dollars ; four lodges were chartered ; lodge expulsions require Grand Lodge confirmation ; the entire revenue of the charity fund for this year was rebated to the lodges in proportion to charities dispensed by them ; ' the banquet was a success.' It is pleasant to find as Grand Treasurer our brother Henry F. Histerman, who was Grand Secretary with us in ' Seventy two.

Past Grand Master Marcus Wolfe, or the printer, heavily leads the review ; he writes of ' *sister* ' lodges probably because the apron is the tie that binds ; extracts largely from our Grand Master Davidson's ' forcible ' remarks on drunkenness. He thinks stopping an elected candidate is like hanging a man without trial ; yes, that's often the quickest way, as is stopping a profane with an objecting black-ball ; we hang the profane without trial. He writes of R. W. John Logan Power, Grand Secretary of Mississippi ; it took us fifteen years to learn what even the J stood

for. He asks why a lodge under dispensation cannot affiliate brethren : can it be because such a lodge is the modern method of making Masons at sight ? and for the similar reason that our territories can't elect congressmen ? He concludes that 'the non-affiliate is still a source of great annoyance ;' how would it do to turn the tables and annoy them awhile ? We add the only instance he has noticed where a lodge met on a high hill or in a low valley, that one of our Lodges at Nebraska City, the hall of which was burned, made a Master Mason in the newly 'broken' prairie on a high hill near town, and the sod and closing furrow came in nicely."

Bro. Bowen has also been "dubbed" as the "great condenser."

M. W. HENRY H. WILSON,
Grand Master, Lincoln.

R. W. WM. R. BOWEN,
Grand Secretary, Omaha.

Next Annual, Omaha, 10th June, 1896.

—:O:—

Nevada

31ST ANNUAL—RENO—11TH JUNE, 1895.

M. W. P. A. Doyle, Grand Master.

DURING the year I have been asked for only one decision, which shows the Lodges are in the hands of competent officers.

The following is certainly to be regretted.

CONDITION OF THE CRAFT.

I regret to state that our membership is every year growing less. During the year just past, notwithstanding that twenty-three Brethren were raised and eight affiliated, the returns show a loss of sixty-six members.

Very well said Bro. Doyle.

"Brethren, I have been taught as a Mason that my first duty is to God, the second to my country. In performance of that duty I call your attention to the fact that the Roman Pontiff, who, as well as his predecessors, have for centuries tried to crush our beloved Fraternity, has now placed under the Papal ban three distinctly American benevolent orders, which would indicate that the Pope feels assured that he has sufficient control of the Government of this country to dictate the conduct of its people. As Masons it becomes our duty to the country to carefully

watch and do all in our power to prevent this semi-barbarous Potentate from obtaining control of our country's government and thereby setting civilization back to the days of the inquisition."

The Committee on Jurisprudence reported on the "Mississippi Rules."

Your committee, to whom was referred a communication from the Grand Lodge of Mississippi "relative to uniform rules as to jurisdiction over candidates," with instructions to report at this Grand Communication, would report as follows:—

The Grand Lodge of Mississippi in February, 1894, adopted two rules relating to jurisdiction of Lodges over candidates rejected for initiation, and over Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts applying for advancement, whose place of residence is permanently removed outside the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge having jurisdiction over the Lodges to which they have petitioned, or by which they were initiated.

Rule I. reads as follows:—

Whenever any person who shall have been rejected for initiation in any Lodge, shall have removed his place of abode into the jurisdiction of another Lodge, within the jurisdiction of another Grand Lodge, with the intention of making it his permanent place of residence, and shall have resided there not less than one year, and shall again desire to petition for initiation, he may present his petition to the Lodge under whose jurisdiction he resides, or to any Lodge which has concurrent jurisdiction over that place, which shall thereupon certify the facts to the Lodge which rejected him, and if said Lodge shall not, within six months thereafter, furnish to the Lodge to which said petition is made, the grounds upon which such rejection was made, it may proceed with such petition as in other cases, and that Lodge may initiate him if elected. Whenever the grounds upon which the petitioner was rejected, are furnished to the Lodge to which he makes his new petition, it shall judge of the sufficiency thereof, and proceed in its discretion.

Under this rule, an applicant who has been rejected for the degrees (in the Mississippi jurisdiction, Lodge A.) applies to Lodge B, in Nevada, for said degrees, one year or twenty years after his rejection. If he be dishonest, he will not disclose the fact of his previous rejection. If he be honest, Lodge B is required to certify to Lodge A the facts of his second application, whereupon said Lodge A may take six months to furnish Lodge B with the grounds upon which the candidate was rejected, and Lodge B may not act until the six months' time has expired.

Our objection to Rule I. is, that Lodge B is required to apply to Lodge A for facts which Lodge A ought not to be able to furnish. The party who cast the black ball cannot divulge the fact, nor the reason of his act. No other member of the Lodge has a right to know the party or the reason. How, then, may Lodge A, one year or twenty years thereafter, be able to furnish Lodge B with such information? But Lodge B must wait six months for it nevertheless, even though the applicant may have resided in the jurisdiction of Lodge B for twenty years, favorably known by all men.

Lodge B is supposed to use all reasonable means to ascertain the status of an applicant; if in so doing it apply to Lodge A, it should be at once furnished, if possible; but we can see no reason why Lodge A should desire to retain for years control over material it has once rejected as unfit for Masonic use.

Rule II. reads as follows :—

Whenever an Entered Apprentice, or Fellow Craft, of a Lodge in this jurisdiction shall permanently change his place of abode, into the jurisdiction of a Lodge in another Grand Jurisdiction, and shall have resided there not less than one year, and shall desire to be passed, or raised, he may apply to the Lodge under whose jurisdiction he lives, or to any Lodge having concurrent jurisdiction thereover, and if it shall signify its willingness to receive him and so certify the fact to the Lodge which initiated, or passed him, it shall thereupon strike his name from its roll of Apprentices or Fellow Crafts, as the case may be, and all jurisdiction over him shall cease; *provided*, that if the Lodge to which he applies shall reject his petition for advancement that the jurisdiction of the Lodge which initiated or passed him shall *ipso facto* be resumed and his name shall again be entered upon its roll, with a note of the fact; *and provided, further*, that nothing in this or the preceding Rule, shall prevent a Lodge from initiating, passing or raising a person as the proxy of another Lodge; in which event the person so initiated, passed or raised, shall become a member of the Lodge for which it acts, if that would be the effect of being raised in the Lodge for which the degree is conferred, under the laws of its Grand Lodge.

Under this rule the certification, as in the former case, shall be made to Lodge A, with reference to Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts, and said Lodge A shall strike from its roll the names of such, and jurisdiction of Lodge A over them shall cease; *provided* "that if the Lodge to which he applies shall reject his petition for advancement, that the jurisdiction of the Lodge which initiated or passed him shall *ipso facto* be resumed, and his name shall again be entered upon its roll with a note of the fact."

Even in this case, we believe it would be better to leave the candidate with the second Lodge (as he had been under the first Lodge), said second Lodge being in possession of facts which said first Lodge probably had no knowledge.

Finally, we conclude that said Rule I. is inconsistent with Masonic procedure, and its apparent desire for perpetual jurisdiction prejudicial to the interests of all other Lodges than the one first applied to.

Rule II. is more consistent, but in that we would strike out the first proviso; under the rule that the second Lodge is as able to judge of the qualifications of its candidates, and has the same incentive to guard the portals of Masonry and admit none but those duly qualified, as that of the Mississippi Jurisdiction.

H. L. FISH,	} Committee.
WM. McMILLAN,	
A. LACKEY,	

No Report on Correspondence owing to the want of funds.

M. W. J. C. HAZLETT,
Grand Master, Dayton.

V. W. C. M. NOTEMARE,
Grand Secretary, Carson City.

New Brunswick

28TH ANNUAL—SAINT JOHN—27TH AUGUST, 1895.

R. W. John V. Ellis P. G. M., in the East,

AS the Grand Master and District Grand Master were at Boston attending the Triennial Conclave of Knights Templars.

Our Representative not recorded present.

The Grand Master's address reported : " Our relations with Sister Grand Lodges are pleasant and harmonious."

" Within our own jurisdiction no cause of dissension, so far as I am aware, has arisen." On the Wisconsin proposition he said :

" I am asked to submit this proposition to you for your action, and I do so with this single remark, that charity which seeks for a return and confines itself to those of our own house is not to me the charity taught us in the Lodge, but would seem to reduce our Craft to the level of a modern assessment association."

On the Mississippi propositions the Committee reported :

" The laws governing the admission of candidates for Free Masonry in this jurisdiction, if properly carried out, appear to be ample to protect ourselves as well as sister jurisdictions, and under existing circumstances the Committee think Grand Lodge will not fail in courtesy to the Grand Lodge of Mississippi if for the present further action is not deemed necessary."

And on the Wisconsin proposition :

" With the views of the Grand Master in regard to the principle underlying the system of Masonic charity your Committee are heartily in accord, but on examination of the circular issued by the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin seems to indicate that a necessity exists in that jurisdiction and in jurisdictions contiguous to it for an organized system of administering relief so that the worthy recipient and the charitable giver shall be justly dealt with. The conditions in this province do not require such a system here at the present time, but circumstances may make it desirable to observe with interest the operations of the plan suggested by the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin."

A Lodge of Sorrow in memory of P. G. M. B. Lester Peters was held on 18th December, 1894.

No Report on Correspondence.

M. W. JULIUS F. WHITTOCK,

Grand Master, Saint Stephen.

V. W. FREEMAN W. WISDOM,

Grand Secretary, Saint John.

29th Annual, Saint John, 25th August, 1896.

—:o:—

New Hampshire

SEMI-ANNUAL—MANCHESTER—27TH DECEMBER, 1894.

HELD for the purpose of exemplifying the work and presentation of jewels to the Grand Secretary and the Grand Treasurer who had respectively filled their offices for over twenty years.

—:o:—

106TH ANNUAL—CONCORD—15TH MAY, 1895.

Charles C. Hayes, M. W. Grand Master.

OUR Representative not recorded present. The Grand Master reports that Masonry has been prosperous in this State, and that the relations existing with other Grand Jurisdictions are harmonious, with peace reigning internally. Grand Lodge had suffered the loss of several of its members, feelingly referred to by the Grand Master.

Decisions are in accordance with the laws of the jurisdiction. They do not believe in perpetual jurisdiction, as is indicated by the following:—

“A Lodge can receive an application for membership, even if the applicant has been rejected for membership by some other Lodge, the Lodge rejecting having no jurisdiction over the rejected applicant.”

Returns show 78 Lodges with 8838 members.

R. W. Bro. A. S. Wait presents the Foreign Correspondence Report. It is a review of fifty-seven Grand Lodges. British Columbia for 1894 is included with favorable comment.

CHARLES C. HAYES,

M. W. Grand Master, Manchester.

GEORGE P. CLEAVES,

R. W. Grand Secretary, Concord.

107th Annual will be held at Concord, on 20th May, 1896.

—30:—

New Jersey

109TH ANNUAL—TRENTON—20TH JANUARY, 1896.

M. W. Charles Belcher, Grand Master.

OUR Representative, R. W. Henry S. Haines, was present. The Grand Master was pleased to report on :

FOREIGN JURISDICTION.

"The friendly relations existing between our own and sister Grand Jurisdictions still continue to be such as ought to be looked for and expected among brethren—most cordial and fraternal—and I congratulate the Grand Lodge upon this desired condition of affairs, evidencing in a marked degree the influence of the teachings and appreciation of the symbolism of our fraternity."

"MAKING A MASON AT SIGHT."

"In view of assurances made by my predecessor, M. W. Brother Durand, which, owing to physical cares and press of official duties, he was unable to fulfil, I was requested to perform a ceremony seldom witnessed in this jurisdiction, but thoroughly within the province of the Grand Master—that of conferring the degrees of Masonry at sight. Under direction of the Grand Master, a Lodge of Master Masons was opened in the rooms of Haddonfield Lodge, No. 130, on the evening of February 2nd, 1895, and assisted by my Associate and Subordinate Grand Officers, and in the presence of a number of Past Grand Officers and visiting brethren, the Symbolic Degrees of Masonry were conferred upon Mr. William Garrett Moore, a resident of Haddonfield, N.J., and son of Worshipful Brother Henry D. Moore, of Haddonfield Lodge. The occasion was one of deep interest to all present. I am informed that the Brother subsequently affiliated with Haddonfield Lodge, and I trust that he will, in course of time, become an active and honored member. He has a distinction of which he may well be proud, and in his after life can look back with peculiar feelings of pride and satisfaction to the circumstances and ceremonies attending his Masonic birth."

Returns—15,686 Masons—net increase of 441 for the year.

MASONIC JURISPRUDENCE.

The Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence presented the following report, which was, on motion, received and adopted :—

To the M. W. Grand Lodge, F. and A. M., of the State of New Jersey.

“Your Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence, to whom was referred the following resolution at the last annual Communication, viz :—

Resolved, That inasmuch as there is a doubt as to the construction of the decisions affecting the right of a subordinate Lodge to deny a dimit to a member clear of the books and free from impending charges, the Committee on Jurisprudence report to the Grand Lodge a definite interpretation of the existing law on this subject.’

Would report that the decision of the Grand Lodge is as follows :—

‘In granting dimit a majority vote of the Lodge (not by ballot) is required.’ See Digest of 1893, page 68.

This decision requires no construction. If a vote of the Lodge is required to grant a dimit the Lodge necessarily has the right to refuse it. Whether the Lodge will grant or refuse it in a given case is for the members to decide, upon their honour and conscience as Masons.”

We cannot concur in the above, as it does away with the established unwritten law of Masonry “*of our own free will and accord*,” which should (in my opinion) prevail, when a member desires to quit a Lodge, provided all requirements of the Constitution have been complied with.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

“The Committee on Foreign Correspondence presented the following report, which was, on motion, received and the Committee relieved from further consideration of the subject, and, on motion, the subject was referred to the Grand Master for him to correspond with the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England as to the feasibility of a congress of distinguished Masons, to be held in London, to consult upon the subjects contained in the resolution of R. W. Brother Ringle. (For resolution, see page 69, Minutes 1894.)

To the Grand Lodge of the Most Ancient and Honorable Society of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New Jersey.

‘The Committee on Foreign Correspondence, to whom was re-committed the resolution offered by R. W. Brother Jacob Ringle at the annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, 1894, appearing in the printed Proceedings of that year on page 69, relating to the calling of a congress of Free Masons, to be held in the city of London, England, &c., and upon which this Committee made report at the annual Communication of 1895, which report was referred back to the Committee with

"instructions that they examine more fully into the merits of the case and to report again at the annual Communication in 1896 as to the expediency of any action in the matter." beg respectfully to report that the gravity of the subject has by no means lessened by further consideration, neither does the good faith in the undertaking of the R. W. Brother who proposed the resolution wane with time.

The statement of the existence of differences needing correction "as a fact," have not manifested as of importance attaching the universality of Masonry. Differences in philology and variance of detail in ceremonial are consequent upon development by habit, language and mental adaptability, and are of indifference so long as the great truths and principles of the fraternity remain a unit of recognition among the Craft.

Unlike the creeds of religions, the canons of a church or dogmas of faith, which are framed in positive language and orthodoxy of thought and expression, the *arcana* of Masonry are enshrined in the hearts of its votaries. Its mode of communication by oral observance implies divergence of exactitude and arbitrary unessentials, yet brings into bold relief the standard of originality.

The Committee, on reviewal of the subject of the resolution from its various standpoints, are united in opinion of the impracticability of carrying out the intent of the proposer and recommend a discontinuance of further consideration on the subject."

Report on Correspondence is by Brother George B. Edwards, presenting a carefully prepared review of 68 Grand Lodges, British Columbia for 1895 included.

M. W. G. W. FORTMEYER,
Grand Master, East Orange.

R. W. THOS. H. R. REDWAY,
Grand Secretary, Trenton.

—:O:—

New Mexico

18TH ANNUAL—ALBUQUERQUE—7TH OCTOBER, 1895.

M. W. J. J. Kelly, Grand Master.

THE Grand Master reported "Our relations with other Grand Jurisdictions have been most pleasant during the year, nothing having arisen to disturb the peace and harmony that should exist at all times among Masons." "Masonry in this jurisdiction is in a flourishing condition, with every promise of a bright future."

No cases had been submitted for decisions; this speaks well for the officers who have charge throughout the jurisdiction.

The Grand Lodge of Oklahoma was accorded recognition as a legal and independent Grand Body.

I note that we are without a Grand Representative near the Grand Lodge of New Mexico, while we have one representing New Mexico in British Columbia; how comes this?

Returns show 21 Lodges with 883 members, a gain of 83.

A beautiful Masonic Temple erected at East Las Vegas is shown in an engraving.

Report on Correspondence is by P. G. M. Max Frost. British Columbia for 1894-5 has its usual place. The review is nearly all selected and quoted, being very similar to our own.

DR. JAMES H. WORTH,
Grand Master.

ALPHEUS A. KEEN,
Grand Secretary, Albuquerque.

19th Annual, East Las Vegas, 1st Monday of October, 1896.

—:o:—

New South Wales

UPON the opening of the Grand Lodge the Grand Master, Brother His Excellency Sir Robert William Duff, announced the appointment of Brother Sir Joseph Palmer Abbott to the office of Pro Grand Master. It was the occasion of thanks and congratulations.

It having appeared that a District Grand Inspector of Workings had announced his opinion that a Master could resign his office, it was declared to be incorrect, and that he was bound by his tenure to remain until his successor was elected and installed. One Lodge was obliged to surrender

its charter. The number of subordinates is recorded as one hundred and ninety-seven.

The Board of General Purposes made a presentment for the legal and duly constituting of a Committee on Foreign Correspondence, accenting the departure with the following reasons, here abbreviated : That such reports will tend to the assurance of the universality and oneness of Masonry, the displaying of differences in Constitutions, and lead to the correction of errors ; that they are replete with useful, practical and instructive matter, which cannot fail to benefit.

The recommendation and provision of the Board were adopted and the Code was made to provide for the *election* of a committee of five, to be chosen from ten named by the board, the committee to select their chairman. The necessary expenses were provided for, same as others.

The following case is of singular peculiarity. It is doubtful if one like it could occur in the United States :

"This was an appeal by Brother James Joseph, of Lodge La Stella d' Italia, No. 200, against the action of that Lodge in investing a brother as Senior Warden before the minutes relating to such election had been confirmed. The papers showed that Brother Joseph had been elected as Senior Warden of the Lodge, but that the minute relating to his election was not confirmed at the next regular meeting, and the Lodge at once proceeded to elect a brother to the position, and that the brother so elected was invested by the Wor. Master as Senior Warden on the same evening ; Brother Joseph appealed against such investiture, until the second election of the Senior Warden was confirmed. The Board resolved 'That the appeal be dismissed.' Brother Joseph has appealed to the Grand Lodge against the decision of the Board, and the matter will come before you this evening. * * *

The appeals against the decision of the Board in the cases of Bro. J. Joseph, v. the W. M. of Lodge La Stella d' Italia, No. 200, and of Bro. Jones v. the same, as referred to in Clauses 4 and 5, of the Report of the Board of General Purposes, were fully considered, and after a lengthy discussion were dismissed, and the action of the Board of General Purposes upheld."

It is noticeable that the Grand Master was absent from the previous Quarterlies on account of sickness. At a Special, held in March, 1895, the announcement of his death was the subject business before the Grand Lodge, and the exercises consisted of regrets and resolutions of sympathy to the widow of Brother Sir Robert William Duff. At a sub-

sequent Special in June, nominations for office bearers were made and the brethren selected the Pro Grand Master, Bro. Sir Joseph Palmer Abbott, to fill the highest office.

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence presented their report through their chairman, Bro. Donnelly Fisher, who read the same, and it was adopted. The review appears in an appendix.

Of the seventy-four Grand Lodges holding fraternal relations with the Grand Lodge of New South Wales but forty were of recent date. To these the Committee gave their consideration.

Upon residential qualifications of a candidate, to enable him to petition, the committee says :

"We regret to say that there is nothing in our Constitution that requires a petitioner to have resided in the Colony for any specified period before petitioning a Lodge for initiation, much less do our Constitutions require that a petitioner must have resided for any definite time within the jurisdiction of any subordinate Lodge before petitioning for initiation. All that our Constitutions provide is that, except in cases of emergency, no person shall be made a Mason without having been proposed and seconded at one regular monthly meeting, and balloted for at the next regular monthly meeting, which ballot shall not take place unless his name, age, profession or occupation, and place of abode, with the names of his proposer and seconder, have been sent in the summons to all the members of the Lodge ; and that a Lodge shall not ballot for or initiate into Freemasonry any person who is not a resident in the neighborhood of the Lodge into which he seeks to be admitted until due enquiry shall have been made of such Lodge or Lodges as may exist in the neighborhood of his residence respecting the character of the applicant for admission, and a satisfactory reply shall have been received and read in open Lodge. But where a candidate resides within an area comprised within a radius of ten miles from the Masonic Hall, Sydney, no such enquiry is required."

Among the reviewed are the Proceedings of New Jersey at its hundred and seventh Annual. The case of the rejected candidate that was made in New York and was the subject of discipline afterwards, was cited "as an instance of the jealousy with which territorial rights are guarded." The procedure of business is followed and extracts from the address of Bro. Durand find place in the report. The com-

mittee is congratulated upon their first effort under such inauspicious circumstances.

SIR JOSEPH PALMER ABBOTT,
Grand Master.

ARTHUR H. GRAY,
Grand Secretary.

—:O:—

New Zealand

BROTHER Francis Henry Dillon Bell, Grand Master, with associate Grand Officers, opened the Grand Lodge in Half-yearly Communication in October, 1895.

The Widows' and Orphans' Fund was pressed upon the attention of the brethren, and seemed in a fair way of accomplishing its intent, from large donations.

The fund of Benevolence was ordered to be invested in the Post Office Savings Bank.

Lodge, Star of the North, at Whangarei, cast in its lot with the Grand Lodge, and was formally welcomed and assigned a number on the roll.

That the standing of this Grand Lodge is on a firm footing may be gleaned from the following paragraph, appearing in the report of a committee; the terms in use are not in vogue in the United States:

"RETURN OF ORIGINAL CHARTERS.—Actuated by an earnest desire to, if possible, bring about a restoration of complete fraternal amity between the different Constitutions working in this colony, the Board has heartily concurred in the proposal made by the M. W. Grand Master that he should be authorized to remove the last semblance of excuse for grievance on the part of the Mother Constitutions against Grand Lodge, by returning the original Charters unconditionally. The Board feels that in making this concession in regard to what is considered are its legal and Masonic rights, no loss of dignity is involved, and no danger incurred. Grand Lodge is now sufficiently strong to be under no apprehension of its interests or those of any of its Lodges suffering by the return of the Charters, even if any attempt should be made to use any of them in an injurious manner. The Board hopes, however, that no such attempt will be made, but that the return of the Charters will be accepted by the Mother Grand Lodges and their officers in the same spirit

as it is made. In each case a request has been preferred that the original Charter may, after cancellation, be returned to the Lodge as a memento of the source from which it sprung. As several lodges have retained their own Charters in preference to leaving them in the custody of Grand Lodge, the Board would earnestly request each such Lodge to now return its original Charter to the Grand Lodge which issued it, either directly to the representative of such Grand Lodge or through the M. W. the Grand Master."

Complaint was made of the invasion of "Sovereign Rights" by the Grand Lodge of England, in having granted a charter for the formation of a Lodge in Christchurch. Of this occurrence, fraternal Grand Lodges were to be officially notified. In this relation and in enactment of the status of this Grand Body, a resolution was passed:—

"That, to avoid any future misapprehension, this Grand Lodge asserts its Sovereign Rights as the Supreme Masonic Governing Body in and for the Colony of New Zealand, and protests against any attempt to invade the Territory of New Zealand as being contrary to well-established Masonic Law."

Appreciation of the fraternal recognition emanating from American Grand Lodges, found expression in the following:—

"That this Grand Lodge desires to acknowledge the warm and fraternal character of the Review of this Grand Lodge in so many of the Proceedings of Sister Grand Lodges in the American Continent, and would especially acknowledge the able and effective criticism by the Grand Lodge of Kansas, as printed in the Proceedings of that Grand Lodge, 1895. The best thanks of this Grand Lodge are hereby tendered to such Grand Lodges as have thus shown so great an interest in their youngest sister."

"Patents of Office" were handed to certain of the Grand Lodge office bearers.

Past Grand Master Malcom Nicol was the recipient of a complete suit of regalia, imported for the presentation, and the addition of an elegant jewel from his own Lodge.

BRO. FRANCIS HENRY DILLON BELL,
Grand Master.

BRO. WILLIAM RONALDSON,
Grand Secretary.

North Carolina

109TH ANNUAL—RALEIGH—14TH JANUARY, 1896.

M. W. Francis M. Moye, Grand Master.

OUR Representative not recorded present. The Grand Master reported as follows :—

“CONDITION OF THE ORDER.”

After a careful survey and study of the Masonic field, which I have been able to make from extensive correspondence with the Lodges, and information received from intelligent Masons in different sections of the State, who have had excellent opportunities to judge correctly of the situation, it affords me much pleasure to say that the Order has enjoyed a reasonable degree of prosperity, and made substantial progress the past year.

Peace and harmony, like faithful sentinels, have stood watch at the door of our Lodges, while relations which are of the most cordial and fraternal nature, remain undisturbed with our sister Grand Jurisdiction.

Five decisions recorded, are sound and involve no intricate points. The address is concluded in these beautiful words :

“If in this life we would be faithful to our trust and live up to the full measure of our duty as Masons, let us take for our chart the four cardinal virtues : Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence and Justice, and to these add the five points of fellowship, which contain the very essence of Masonry and beautifully illustrate the true doctrine and tenets of the Order. They will lead us in the right way and teach us the important duties we owe one to another. They are the five golden lamps that never go out, but are always burning in our Mystic Temple, gilding with rays of dazzling light its massive pillars, and adding increased grandeur and magnificence to its beautiful proportions. They are the bright cluster of stars that sparkle and shine with purest light in the firmament of Masonry, giving hope and good cheer to a disconsolate brother in the darkest night of adversity and sorrow. Let us follow their precepts and practice their teachings, and the beautiful white doves of friendship and brotherly love will come to our meeting places, fly through the windows of our lodge rooms and perch upon our altars, while all within will be peaceful, harmonious and serene.

As we are now about to enter upon the work of this Grand Communication, let us look first to the City of Light, where reigneth the Judge Supreme, from whom cometh our help, and most earnestly beseech His divine assistance in the discharge of all our duties. ‘May we have wisdom from on high to direct us, strength commensurate with our task to support us, and the beauty of holiness to adorn and render all our performances acceptable in His sight.’ ”

Returns, 283 Lodges, 10,155 Master Masons. No report on Correspondence is explained by the following letter :

ENFIELD, N. C., January 14, 1896.

M. W. DR. FRANCIS M. MOYE, G. M.,

RALEIGH, N. C.

Most Worshipful Sir and Bro.: After the Special Communication of the Grand Lodge, early in December, and the announcement of the death of that eminent Mason and upright man, Bro. G. W. Blount, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, you graciously tendered me the position thus made vacant. I promptly accepted the appointment, both as a matter of duty and as evidence of my appreciation of your confidence, and hoped that whatever was lacking in fitness or experience would be supplied by zeal in the prosecution of the work. It was confidently expected, too, that the few weeks left could all be utilized for this purpose, but the demands upon the time of a country doctor encroached so sadly and unexpectedly upon the days left for the examination of the mass of proceedings, that the attempt to read carefully any one of them had to be abandoned. A cursory glance at a few of the Annual Addresses of Grand Masters, shows the Craft everywhere to be a unit in the advancement of all good works.

Differences, seemingly radical, as to the construction of the landmarks and ancient constitutions still exist, but it is to be hoped that in time these will disappear, to be followed by approximate uniformity.

Truly and fraternally,

JOHN A. COLLINS.

FRANCIS M. MOYE,

re-elected *Grand Master*.

JOHN C. DREWRY,

Grand Secretary, Raleigh.

110th Annual, Raleigh, 12th January, 1897.

—:o:—

North Dakota

6TH ANNUAL—FARGO—18TH JUNE, 1895.

George L. McGregor, Grand Master.

⑧UR Representative not recorded present. The Grand Master was pleased to say:—

"We meet to-day, my brethren, under favorable circumstances, for no cloud of discord, to my knowledge, darkens our Masonic canopy, and perfect harmony reigns supreme."

FRATERNAL RELATIONS.

"I am pleased to state that the most fraternal and cordial relations exist, so far as I am informed, between our subordinate lodges, and all sister Grand Jurisdictions, and my earnest wish is that it may ever prevail.

But few decisions were given. I find this on physical qualifications :

Question. What degree of lameness is sufficient to make a candidate ineligible? (My answer should apply to all physical defects.)

Answer. That degree which prevents the candidate from communicating, receiving or performing all the requirements of the several obligations and lectures, or of passing through the various ceremonies, unaided by artificial means.

The Grand Master's views on the Grand Representative system are very good, if only carried into practice.

"I desire here to express my approval of the exchange of Grand Representatives. Notwithstanding that some Grand Jurisdictions are doing away therewith, I believe our Grand Representatives should open correspondence with the Grand Lodges they represent and be furnished with the proceedings of both Grand Bodies, and by the study thereof, be able to make some report to the regular communication of the Grand Lodge near which they reside, of whatever they may find of interest, thus making the position of Grand Representative one of interest at our annual communication and a source of much instruction to themselves and the subordinate lodges to which they belong."

CONDITION OF THE CRAFT.

"The condition of the craft throughout this Grand Jurisdiction is good. The growth during the past year, while small, has been taken from among the best specimens of material to be found in the quarries, such as in time will materially help to beautify and adorn our vast fabric. The brethren generally are zealous in the work, and when I consider the times, as they have been, not only throughout the length and breadth of our own, but of foreign lands, I cannot refrain from again congratulating you on your present condition."

Report on Correspondence is by P.G.M. Bro. Frank J. Thompson, Grand Secretary, who is not only an able reviewer but also a very good commentator. British Columbia for 1894 is included; a vein of sarcasm permeates it; I don't believe in being *too critical*.

WILLIAM H. BEST,

Grand Master, Fargo.

FRANK J. THOMPSON,

Grand Secretary, Fargo.

Nova Scotia

30TH ANNUAL—SYDNEY—12TH JUNE, 1896.

M. W. Bro. Wm. F. McCoy, Grand Master.

OUR Representative not recorded present.

Headed by the Sydney Brass Band, Grand Lodge marched to St. Andrew's Church to listen to a sermon ("Love the Brotherhood") by Bro. Rev. Donald McMillan, Acting Grand Chaplain.

The Grand Master placed himself on record on the Grand Representative question with—

"The following Grand Lodges in the United States have discontinued to have Grand Lodge Representatives, viz., Pennsylvania, Iowa, Kentucky, and Tennessee.

The Grand Lodge of Wyoming has declined to appoint any representatives.

Conclusion of the Masonic Congress on this subject was:—"It is the conclusion of this Congress that under the changed condition of soliciting Grand Representatives too little time has elapsed to give opportunity for definite judgment as to the usefulness of the system, and it shall therefore be continued. Grand Secretary Parvin, of Iowa, is on record as opposed to the system, "believing the Grand Representative system as useless and harmful, and should be abolished." Some of those opposed to the system speak of it as cumbersome, destroying harmony, of doubtful utility, and of no material benefit. This has not been the experience of this Grand Lodge, and we were never disturbed by want of cordial kind feeling, and the Representatives when mindful of attending Grand Lodge meetings have generally added to the dignity of our deliberations. Apparently we are more practically disposed than the Grand Lodges who may from some trivial troubles about State rights and jurisdictions have created slight differences on the other side of the line. The brethren holding commissions from the Lodges named will please return them to the Grand Secretary, so that he may be in a position to ask that our commissions to said Grand Lodges be returned also to him; assuring the Grand Lodges named that we do not consider from anything that has ever come under our notice the abolition of the honorable position of Grand Lodge Representatives as essentially necessary."

Returns show 3,267 members—a gain of 44 for the year.

The Committee's report on the "Proposed Uniform Rules of Mississippi" was adopted.

"Your Committee are of the opinion that this Grand Lodge has never accepted or acted upon the principle of perpetual jurisdiction over rejected candidates, and cannot advise that these rules should be adopted as a part of our Constitution, believing that we have sufficient safeguards against unworthy candidates.

Sec. 43, chap. 14, reads : 'No person shall be made a Mason if he resides in the jurisdiction of another Lodge without the consent of that Lodge; such consent to be expressed by the unanimous vote by ballot of the members present at any regular meeting of such Lodge, subsequent to the one at which the application for such consent is made.'

If he has not resided for 12 months within the jurisdiction of the Lodge to which he seeks admission, he must be recommended in writing by 6 members of the Lodge who are in good standing.

This is followed by sec. 44 : Every candidate must be proposed in open Lodge at a regular meeting, and his petition referred to an investigating committee.

The investigating committee are appointed for the purpose of enquiring into the character and antecedents of the candidate for the information and guidance of the brethren of the Lodge, etc.

To the first resolution we would submit that to attempt to ascertain and report the cause for which a petition was rejected, is to attempt to tamper with the sacredness of the ballot, and should never be entertained as Masonic. Sec. 35, chap. 14, of our Constitution is very binding on the secrecy of the ballot.

To the second resolution we would submit that it embodies substantially existing practice with us and is therefore not necessary.

We are pleased, however, to note that a liberal tendency is making itself very apparent in recent years in the government of this very exclusive and conservative Sister Grand Lodge. Her aims at a higher standard of Masonic worth are exceedingly commendable, and are a noble example to every Mason to imitate. Her Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence is composed of brethren of very high standing in the knowledge of Masonry. It is a privilege one cannot but appreciate to be able to read the result of the research and findings of these estimable brethren on questions concerning the government of the Craft.

While your Committee feel compelled to report adversely to the adoption of the resolution by the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia (and in this we are helped by the decision of many other writers of both the United States and Canada), at the same time we think it desirable they be respectfully acknowledged, and the Grand Lodge of Mississippi advised of the action of this Grand Lodge, which we would have been glad to have made according to the wishes of our most respected Sister Grand Lodge.

All of which is most respectfully submitted.

(Sgd.) B. SWENERTON,
ALEX. STEPHEN.

Report on Correspondence is by R. W. Bro. Thomas B. Flint and W. Bro. Rev. Charles E. Willets, D. C. L., which, considering that this is their first attempt, is highly creditable. They have added a valuable contribution to the library of Nova Scotia. We welcome you to the Guild, and wish you much success in future labors along this line.

British Columbia for 1894 has extended review and very favorable comment.

WM. F. MACCOY,
Grand Master (re-elected), Halifax.

WILLIAM ROSS,
Grand Secretary, Halifax.

31st Annual, Halifax, 2nd Wednesday of June, 1896.

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Ohio

86TH ANNUAL—SPRINGFIELD—OCTOBER 23-24TH, 1895.

M. W. Bro. Carroll F. Clapp, Grand Master.

WHO reported that "No cloud darkens our Masonic Canopy ; perfect harmony reigns supreme within our Grand Jurisdiction." Of the departed he said : "They have crossed the narrow isthmus between the eternities and to-day are assembled upon the delectable mountains of life."

Twenty decisions are recorded. It is only necessary to note No. 16, to show that the Grand Master over Ohio Masons believes in the "Perfection" theory.

DECISION No. 16. 475. Held, that an applicant for degrees, being blind in one eye, but otherwise eligible, would not, because of such defect alone, be disqualified from receiving the degrees of Freemasonry.

All the others are in harmony with Masonic law and usage.

FOREIGN JURISDICTIONS.

So far as I know, the fraternal relations with other Jurisdictions have been mutually agreeable during the past year. This Grand Jurisdiction is under special obligations to Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Indiana, New Jersey, West Virginia, and New Mexico for favors shown, they having either released jurisdiction over candidates, or conferred degrees for this Jurisdiction upon candidates that had removed from here before completing their membership.

Grand Master Clapp expresses his opinion on Foreign Correspondence after my own heart, and wish the sentiment could prevail in British Columbia.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

"It is only necessary to glance over the correspondence from other Grand Jurisdictions to be convinced that no mistake has been made in the selection of the Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence for this Grand Lodge; for he receives the highest compliments from all other Jurisdictions. While his criticisms are sometimes pointed when in defence of his own Grand Lodge, yet they are written in such a spirit of brotherly love and kindness as never to give offense; and his opinions are regarded and respected as authority in every Grand Jurisdiction of the world. The position is a very important one; for the Correspondent is a mold of sentiment either for or against the Grand Jurisdiction he represents. The fact that we are now at peace with every legitimate Masonic Body in the world, and that the most fraternal relations exist, speaks more for our present Correspondent than anything that can be said.

I regret that every Master Mason in Ohio does not have an opportunity of reading the Foreign Correspondence so ably prepared by Past Grand Master Cunningham, and thus secure the benefits of his valuable thoughts. Our honored Correspondent has for forty consecutive years been in attendance at the Annual Communications of this Grand Lodge. I trust that the time is not far distant when some action will be taken by this Grand Lodge which will render it possible to place in the hands of every Mason in Ohio a complete copy of the Grand Lodge Proceedings. What a great Masonic educator it would prove!

I have heretofore expressed myself that I believe that the greatest need and demand of the Masons of to-day is an opportunity to acquire a more extended Masonic education. If a copy of the Grand Lodge Proceedings were placed in every Mason's home in the State, I doubt if we would then be confronted by the fact that one-tenth or more of the membership was in arrears for dues, and indebted to their Lodges in the sum of over \$18,000. Until this Grand Lodge feels that it would be justified in the expenditure that would be required to carry out this plan, copies of the Report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, and also the Grand Lodge Proceedings, should be placed on sale at the actual cost of publication.

THE OHIO MASONIC HOME.

The Masonic Home has grown to be the pride of our Craft, and the liberality and generosity of our members is growing day by day, and becoming more apparent. The teachings of charity by our Order for nearly a century in this State have at last crystallized into a reality.

The Masons of Ohio are to dedicate to-day, for the use of our indigent Brethren, their wives, children, widows, and orphans, the finest structure that has ever been erected in any Grand Jurisdiction by the Craft for a similar purpose.

It is simply wonderful and grand to contemplate how the Masonic heart has expanded in the past few years, and how much more liberal our Order has grown since the ideal thought of a Masonic Home has materialized."

The fraternity in British Columbia can see from the following remarks, the great benefit that is derived by the enactment of our Grand Lodge, making it imperative that a candidate must pass an examination in open Lodge in all the degrees—more especially the third :

“I recommend that some action be taken by this Grand Body that will make it imperative upon the Lodges to post and instruct their candidates in the M. M. Degree Work Lecture, requiring also an examination as to the candidate's proficiency in the same, as in the preceding degrees.

One of the questions upon the District Lecturer's report is: ‘Are candidates examined in the M. M. Degree Lecture?’ In tabulating these reports, I find the question answered in the affirmative by very few Lodges. Twenty-three hundred or more Master Masons in this Grand Jurisdiction have been set adrift this year deprived of instruction and information to which they were entitled, and scarcely one of them in possession of facts sufficient to permit him to visit a Lodge other than his own. I earnestly believe that this should be considered and acted upon, and Lodges required to instruct and examine in the Master Mason's Work Lecture.

‘He loves Masonry most who knows it best,’ has been as truthfully said as that ‘A little learning is a dangerous thing.’”

The Grand Master of Ohio has no easy time if he attends to his duties as did Bro. Clapp, as evidenced by his report, covering 50 pages, from which I judge he left nothing undone.

Returns show, 493 Lodges, 38,851 members—an increase of 3,936 for the year.

The Committee on Correspondence recommended (at the request of the Grand Master) that the fraternal relations formerly existing between the Grand Lodges of Ohio and Tennessee be fully restored; which was unanimously adopted.

The Committee on Jurisprudence endorsed the Grand Master's suggestion, which was adopted by the Grand Lodge:—

“Having had under consideration that portion of the M. W. Grand Master's address recommending that the candidates should be required to master the Examination Lecture in the Third Degree, we beg leave to report that we approve the suggestion made by the Grand Master, and recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved. That the W. Master of each and every Lodge shall require every newly obligated Master Mason to acquire the Examination Lecture of the Master's Degree, and that the W. Master certify that this has been

done on the annual returns of his Lodge, and that the Grand Secretary cause to be printed a blank certificate to that effect on the blanks sent out for the annual returns."

How beautifully expressed are the following words by the Committee on Necrology!

EMINENT MASONS OF OTHER GRAND JURISDICTIONS.

"Nor do we of Ohio alone mourn the loss of jewels from our Masonic crown. The winds which whisper in the everglades of Florida; lay bare the iron-bound and coal-lined mountains of Pennsylvania; blow gently over the velvet-covered valleys of Connecticut; and fan the Atlantic-washed shores of the Mother of Presidents and the silver-veined mountains of Montana and Colorado; that sweep across the Great Salt Lake of Utah, and the Pacific-kissed coast of far-west Oregon and California bear to our listening ears and sympathizing hearts the story of the loss of Brethren eminent in Masonry, high in station, and of commanding influence in every walk in life—Brethren whose lives have borne high testimony to the value of Masonic teachings and Masonic practice,—of whom it may be justly said, "The world was better for their living and their labors."

The Ohio Masonic Home was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies on the 23rd of October, 1895. The structure cost \$102,000, all practically paid for, as the balance owing is only \$438 00. The site and contribution of \$11,000 was the grand offering of the City of Springfield.

The Craft of Ohio are to be commended and congratulated on their grand effort in erecting "A Monument to the noble tenets of our profession, and an incentive to practise brotherly love and relief."

Report on Correspondence is by W. M. Cunningham, P. G. M., which is a most able review and quite up to the high standard attained by this eminent Brother in past years. The work embraces 303 pages, full of interest and courteous, fraternal discussion.

British Columbia, for 1894, occupies three pages.

WM. B. MELLISH,

Grand Master,

J. H. BROMWELL,

Grand Secretary, Cincinnati.

87th Communication, 3rd Wednesday in October, 1896.

Oklahoma.

3RD ANNUAL—KINGFISHER—12TH FEBRUARY, 1895.

M. W. Selmyrn Douglas, Grand Master.

BELOW is a list of the American Grand Lodges which have recognized the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma, and also a list of those which have withheld recognition :

RECOGNIZED.

Alabama
Arizona
Arkansas
British Columbia
California
Colorado
Delaware
Georgia
Illinois
Indiana
Indian Territory
Iowa
Kentucky
Maine
Manitoba
Maryland
Michigan
Minnesota
Missouri
Nebraska
Nevada
New Brunswick
New Jersey
North Dakota
Nova Scotia
Ohio
Oregon
Pennsylvania
Prince Edward Island
South Dakota
Utah
Virginia
Washington
Wyoming

NOT RECOGNIZED.

Canada
Connecticut
District of Columbia
Florida
Idaho
Kansas
Louisiana
Massachusetts
Mississippi
Montana
New Hampshire
New Mexico
New York
North Carolina
Quebec
Rhode Island
South Carolina
Tennessee
Texas
Vermont
West Virginia
Wisconsin

Returns show 19 Chartered and 4 Lodges Under Dispensation, with 923 members; an increase of 198 for the year.

Considerable business of importance to the jurisdiction was transacted and we are pleased to see steady growth and interest manifested.

The second Report on Correspondence is by Bro. J. S. Hunt, and is very creditable. British Columbia for 1894 has its usual place and share of fraternal comment. Thanks Bro. Hunt for kind remarks.

M. W. CHARLES A. NEWMAN,
Grand Master, El Reno.

R. W. JAMES S. HUNT,
Grand Secretary, Stillwater.

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Oregon

EMBELLISHED with the portraits of three Past Grand Masters, the Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Oregon, on its forty-fifth Annual, are presented in a volume containing over four hundred pages, the efficient production of Bro. James F. Robinson, who succeeded to the office of Grand Secretary made vacant by the death of Brother Stephen F. Chadwick, Past Grand Master, and Chairman of Committee on Correspondence since 1867.

Brother Philip S. Malcolm's hand sounded the gavel at the opening of the Communication, and graced the *exordium* of his address with elegancies from Pike, Herder, and Holty, of Spring-tide fragrance, and such beauty of thought as alone can flow from hearts attuned in harmony with the the designs of the Great Creator :

"The whole pleasure of life, it has been said, is dependent on the regular recurrence of external things. The changes of nature are the fountains of our earthly life.

The year is repeating once more its most charming chapter. Another year has come for us all, and each of us has one Winter the less through which to live, hoping and longing for Spring ; and now one more Spring, gay and glad with abundant leaves and brilliant flowers, is passing away, looking archly back at us, as she makes room for her sedater sister, Summer.

Always, the coming of the Spring is pleasant to us, for in the Spring nature wakes and lives again, bright and hopeful in its fresh robes of gold and green ; and God our Father reveals Himself anew to us in the abundant foliage and the delicious flowers. To me this new page of the book of life is more especially welcome every year, because it brings with it our reunion and that renewal of familiar intercourse for a few

days of content, which is so soon to end for all of us in this world. 'We build on the ice,' says Herder, 'we write on the wrinkles of the sea. The restless and inconstant undulations pass away; the ice melts, slaking the thirst of the mountains and feeding the rills, eager, like children, for a larger life; and all our castles and palaces builded on it flow away, invisible, like idle thoughts.'

The thought which first occurs to us when we meet after a long separation is that of those who have been with us heretofore, some will be with us here again no more forever. 'Who,' says Holty, 'can stay the flight of the hours? They rush onward like the arrows of God. Each pulsation, as it follows another, brings us nearer our deathbed, nearer to the iron sleep of death. Very short is the longest span of life measured out to us. To-day, lighthearted, we dance in the springtime of life; to-morrow the grass waves in the wind over our graves.' 'We swim in the stream of Time from wave to wave,' says Herder; 'and the stream carries all at last into the sea of forgetfulness.'

The death of Bro. Chadwick is greatly felt in this jurisdiction where he was so prominent a part; he is mourned by the fraternity. "In every station he performed his duty with fidelity and extraordinary ability." "Our jurisdiction has lost its brightest jewel, the Order everywhere a member who was a credit to it, who was respected for his ability, and loved for his virtues."

The duty of visitations was paramount with Bro. Malcolm, and in undertaking the work his first visits were to those outlying Lodges that were formed on the extreme limits of the state.

This feature in the address illustrates that requirement of obligation is greater than command of unholy legislation. Upon the recommendation of a Special Committee the position taken by the Grand Master was sustained.

"In my judgment the evil of hasty legislation is well shown in the resolution passed by the last Grand Lodge in the closing hours of its session, having for its object the printing of the Unwritten Work in what is termed cipher, erroneously supposed to be intelligible to members of the Order only. I believe that it has been demonstrated that there is no code constructed from the letters of the alphabet but what can be deciphered by one familiar with such work. Leaving that out of consideration, the fact that the resolution referred to was passed by a vote of forty-three to thirty-eight out of the 350 or more votes that should have been cast on this, one of the most important questions that can come before a Grand Lodge of Masons, I have deemed it my duty to take no action in this matter, because the printing of any part of the Unwritten Work in any manner that may become legible, or intelligible, even to ourselves, is, I am firmly convinced, a violation of our obligation.

When the attentive ear ceases to receive from the instructive tongue and the mysteries of Masonry are no longer lodged in the repository of faithful breasts, our grand old Order has passed over the summit of its success and will rapidly move on the downward grade.

If any change has been made in the ancient obligation which will permit any Mason in this jurisdiction to carry out the action contemplated by the resolution referred to, I feel confident that no such change was ever authorized by this Grand Lodge."

A Brother finding it impracticable to be a Mason and remain a member of the Catholic Church desired to relinquish his Masonry. It was decided that the best course was to treat the application as one for a dimit, which, granted and not used, would naturally annul activity in the Order.

Finding an Entered Apprentice of one of the Lodges, that had lost his right arm since his receiving that degree, in the largeness of his heart, and in sympathy for the afflicted, the Grand Master conferred upon him the degrees of Fellow Craft and Master Mason. How?

The Committee on Jurisprudence naturally inquire as to the exercise of the prerogative of a Grand Master in making at sight one who cannot comply with the requirements of the law, being physically incompetent. The act was approved out of regard for the doer, but it was not to be considered to be a precedent to be followed indiscriminately by Grand Masters nor as allowing subordinates to confer the degrees upon maimed candidates."

A petition was received from one who, while on a visit to England, was made and raised in a Lodge in Liverpool, and, on his return to his home, applied for admission to one of the Lodges in the vicinity, and was refused. Desiring to be healed of irregularity he was instructed to apply to a Lodge, and if able to stand the test of qualifications mentally, morally, etc., and passing a ballot, the Grand Master was authorized to play the Samaritan act and heal.

A resolution to confer the degrees upon clergymen free of fees and hold them free of dues was lost.

Bro. John B. Cleland, Grand Orator, delivered a fine address upon "What are the purposes of this Order, which has endured so many years, and gained such large membership?"

Bro. Robert Clow presented a good review of the proceedings of the Craft, notwithstanding his misgivings when he commenced.

The Brother gives his views on the subject of objection to advancement:

"Religious belief should not be made the basis of an objection, either to the initiation or advancement of a candidate. We hold that a regulation requiring an investigation of the cause of an objection to be in contravention of the fundamental law which requires unanimity in the selection of material in that its tendency is to obstruct the Master Mason in the exercise of an inherent right to pass upon the moral and physical qualifications of a candidate, and to introduce an element of discord in the Lodge. Such a regulation places an Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft upon an equality with a Master Mason and restricts the latter's judgment of the fitness or unfitness of a candidate for advancement. If an objection to the advancement of a Fellow Craft is overruled under such a regulation and the Master Mason degree conferred, the consensus of opinion is that he is entitled to membership in the Lodge conferring the degrees without any additional ballot (and such we understand to be the general practice), thereby giving him precedence over a Master Mason applying for membership, who, notwithstanding the fact that he files a dimit certifying to his good character as a Mason, must undergo the ordeal of a secret ballot before he can be admitted, and if rejected, no one, we opine, will be found to assert that, because of such rejection, the Brother casting the negative ballot should be required to assign a reason for his action or that the act be made the basis of charges which, if not sustained, the reason would be deemed not valid and the petitioner admitted to membership. Yet this is the indirect result of overruling an objection to the advancement of a candidate. Fifty years ago the right of objection was held to be as sacred as any of the prerogatives of a Master Mason, and the presumption that its exercise was prompted by unworthy motives held to be a Masonic offence. Even the open avowal of an objecting Brother did not authorize the Lodge to pass upon his rights or upon the sufficiency of his reasons. In 1844, C. W. Moore, of Massachusetts, held this to be the law, and Ohio, Indiana, New York and many other Grand Jurisdictions are upon record as affirming the unquestioned right of objection. The late Brother Albert Pike, whose Masonic knowledge and research none will deny, has thus expressed himself upon this question:—

'If I believe that a man will not, in good faith and with all his heart, comply with all his obligations to me through penuriousness, selfishness, indolence, personal antipathy or other defect in his character, I not only may, but I ought to refuse to assume those obligations toward him, and none have a right to ask my reasons.'

Reviewing the address of Brother Durand he is pleased to say it is "of more than average merit." The item on

physical qualifications is an echo evidently of his own mind and that of the Grand Lodge of Oregon.

He thinks the apology of Brother Haines at the end of his Correspondence report entirely unnecessary, for he has succeeded in presenting an admirable report."

BRO. MORTON D. CLIFFORD,

Grand Master.

BRO. JAMES F. ROBINSON,

Grand Secretary.

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Pennsylvania

AT the Quarterly Communication held at Philadelphia on the 5th of June, 1895, the M. W. Grand Master, Bro. Mathias H. Henderson, very feelingly announced the death of R. W. P. G. M. Bro. Richard Vaux, which occurred on the 22nd of March last.

The late Bro. Vaux had been a member of the Grand Lodge for about fifty years, had filled many elective offices, and served on important committees. He was chairman of the Committee on Correspondence for 25 years, and his fame as a Masonic jurist was not bounded by the shores of this continent.

R. W. Bro. Michael Arnold, P. G. M., prepared a most fitting memorial, and we, deeming Bro. Vaux one of the brightest stars in the Masonic firmament, reproduce the greater part of the eulogy, as it should grace the library of every Masonic Grand Lodge.

THE EULOGY.

Right Worshipful Past Grand Master Bro. Michael Arnold said:—

"We are told by Masonic tradition that there was a time during the erection of the first Temple when the Craft was thrown into great confusion, by the sudden death of one of the three Grand Masters who superintended the erection of that magnificent building. The consequence of that loss to the Craft is said to have continued until the erection of the second Temple. This Grand Lodge has, during its long

existence, had its losses, and suffered bereavements in the deaths of Grand Masters, whose lives and presence were very dear and precious to the Craftsmen. Reflecting upon the long line of distinguished Brethren who have been Grand Masters of this Grand Lodge, I make no invidious comparison, and do none of them injustice, when I say that this Grand Lodge never had a Grand Master who was the superior of Bro. Richard Vaux, or whose death is more sincerely lamented. Others may have been his equal and have done as much for the benefit of Freemasonry as Bro. Vaux, but I claim for him this credit—that no one has done more.

Brother the Honorable Richard Vaux was born in the city of Philadelphia on December 19, 1816, and died on March 22, 1895, being at the time of his death more than seventy-five years of age. He adopted the law as his vocation, and was prominent in legal matters, in public politics, in philanthropic works and services, in the government of his native city as its mayor, in the councils of the nation as a representative in Congress, and, what is of most importance to us, in this Grand Lodge, in the station of R. W. Grand Master. He was a man of original genius, fertile in the conception of plans for improving and continuing the works in which he was engaged. All the bodies of which he was a member felt the impress of his individuality. He did not content himself with simply following others, but he led them; holding fast to that which was good wherever it was found, while he was quick to discover that which was bad, and to suggest plans for correcting evils and substituting good forms in their place.

Brother Vaux came of Quaker stock, and, notwithstanding the opposition of the members of that religious society, he at an early day conceived a favorable opinion of our ancient and honorable institution, and freely and voluntarily offered himself as a candidate for the rights and privileges of Freemasonry.

Brother Vaux was made a Mason at sight by Right Worshipful Grand Master Joseph R. Chandler, although the records of the Grand Lodge made from the returns of Lodge No. 3 state that he was initiated in that Lodge on December 20, 1842. The truth, however, as shown by the minutes of Lodge No. 3, is that at a meeting of that Lodge held on November 15, 1842, a petition was received from Brother Richard Vaux, Recorder of the City of Philadelphia; age, twenty-six; residence, 69 South Seventh Street. This petition was duly referred to a committee. The Lodge met again on December 20, 1842, but the minutes do not show that Brother Vaux was present, and according to the following report of the Committee of Inquiry, his presence was not necessary:

'The Committee to whom was referred the petition of Richard Vaux, an applicant for initiation and membership, respectfully report that they have diligently discharged the duty assigned them; and further respectfully report that the Right Worshipful Grand Master, in pursuance of the powers and authorities in him vested, conferred upon the candidate the first degree in Freemasonry. Your Committee therefore recommend him as worthy of membership; when he was balloted for and unanimously approved of to become a member of this Lodge.'

He was in due course crafted in Lodge No. 3 on January 17, 1843, and raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason on February 21, 1843.

He resigned from Lodge No. 3 on January 16, 1844, for the purpose of affiliating with Union Lodge, No. 121, and was elected a member of that Lodge on February 23, 1844. At the same meeting he was elected Senior Warden of Lodge No. 121, and at the next annual election, on St. John's Day of that year, he was elected the Worshipful Master of the

Lodge and served during the following Masonic year. After he became a member of the Grand Lodge he at once became prominent in its councils. He served as a Steward of the Stephen Girard Charity Fund, as Junior Grand Deacon, as Senior Grand Deacon, and on December 1, 1862, he was elected Right Worshipful Junior Grand Warden, serving in that station the usual time, two years, being advanced on December 5, 1864, to the station of Right Worshipful Senior Grand Warden, and on December 3, 1866, to that of Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master. His predecessor, Brother John L. Goddard, having died on July 15, 1867, Brother Vaux acted as Grand Master during the remainder of that year, and was elected to that office to serve for the two Masonic years beginning on St. John's Day, 1867 and 1868.

It was during his administration as Grand Master, on June 24, 1868, that the corner-stone of the present Masonic Temple was laid, with proper Masonic ceremonies. He lived to see the building completed, occupied by the Grand Lodge, and the large debt incurred in its erection reduced to its present comparatively small amount. On his retirement from the station of Right Worshipful Grand Master, he was appointed a member of the Committee on Appeals, becoming its Chairman on December 27, 1877, and continuing in that position down to the time of his death. He also served for two years on the Committee on Landmarks. The most important position he occupied in this Grand Lodge, and the one which has given him the most reputation and done more for the Craft throughout the entire Masonic world, is that of Chairman of the Committee on Correspondence. This gave him the World of Freemasonry for a field, and enabled him, by his superior knowledge, wisdom, and strong will to bring about a harmony in thought and action which is so necessary in an institution composed of many sovereign Grand Lodges. Having no superior to command them, the only way to bring about the harmonious relations which now exist is by the free use of the vigorous pens of the Chairmen of the Committees on Correspondence of the several Grand Lodges. Among all these chairmen, I may say, without derogating from any, that no one of them has been the superior of Brother Vaux, or had more influence in the Craft, or had his just claims to high and honorable position among them admitted by all. He was first appointed Chairman of the Committee on Correspondence on St. John's Day, December, 1857, and continued until St. John's Day, December 27, 1862, on which day he took his station as Right Worshipful Junior Grand Warden. On December 27, 1875, he was again appointed Chairman of the Committee on Correspondence, and continued to hold that appointment until the time of his death, so that he served in that important position nearly twenty-five years.

Some idea of the volume of Masonic work done by Brother Vaux as Chairman of the Committee on Correspondence may be formed from the report of that Committee for the year ending St. John's Day, 1894, which contained three hundred and thirty-nine pages. In that report, as in his former reports, Brother Vaux thoroughly digested the proceedings of the several Grand Lodges, expressing his agreement with most of the work which was done, and his disapproval, in plain Masonic language of such acts as he considered un-Masonic. The labor bestowed by Brother Vaux annually in the consideration of the reports of the various Grand Lodges may be truly styled the work of a year. He read the various reports as he received them, marked such parts as required notice, and then wrote out his views with his own hand, thus adding laborious physical to intense mental labor. It is doubtful whether this Grand Lodge will ever again be honored by a member who will possess the knowledge, the disposition, and the ability, and who will give the time required to make so exhaustive a research and com-

parison of the views of the different Grand Lodges, as this Grand Lodge was annually favored with, in the report of the Committee on Correspondence written by Brother Vaux. There is, however, this satisfaction, which the Brethren have, notwithstanding the great loss they have suffered, and that is that nearly all of the important questions upon which Grand Lodges differed have been thoroughly discussed and union obtained on many of them, while the differences are plainly marked and fully understood on both sides.

One of the most difficult and occasionally exasperating questions was that which concerned the status of a rejected applicant. Brother Vaux vigorously supported the law of this Grand Lodge, that a rejection cannot be removed except by the Lodge which made it, or, to put the phrase in short form, that a rejection is perpetual and can be removed only by the Lodge in which it was made. There can be no doubt of the consistency of this view. He insisted upon it strenuously, and this Grand Lodge has on frequent occasions enforced it. The regulations of other Grand Lodges are that an objection shall cease to be of any effect at a certain time after it is made, as six months, a year, or other length of time. The power of these Grand Lodges to make and enforce a regulation of that kind was admitted, although Brother Vaux strenuously denied the Masonic lawfulness of such a rule. With two such rules prevailing conflicts are unavoidable, but the remedy has been easy to find and as easy to apply. It is now the established rule of this Grand Lodge that if any person has been rejected by any Lodge under its jurisdiction, and shall afterwards be approved and initiated in a Lodge of another jurisdiction without having the objection removed, neither this Grand Lodge nor any of its subordinate Lodges will give Masonic recognition to the person thus initiated. Controversies concerning the application of this remedy by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania have arisen and have been always settled to the satisfaction of this Grand Lodge. We deny no powers of other Grand Lodges, and we will not suffer our law to be violated with impunity.

Another question frequently discussed was that of public installations. It is well known that this Grand Lodge has always firmly declared that none of the work of the Lodge-room shall be done in public. Upon this point Bro. Vaux wrote frequently and forcibly, pointing out the differences between public ceremonies done by a Lodge, such as laying the corner-stone of a building, and the secret, and therefore mysterious work of a Lodge, as a Lodge, in a Lodge-room. The taste for public display was no doubt generated by the public exhibitions of other bodies, which, although composed of Masons, were not part of the original body of Freemasonry, which we, in Pennsylvania, are taught ends at the seventh or Royal Arch degree; and while this Grand Lodge disclaims any intention of derogating from any of other bodies as to the rights, privileges, forms, and ceremonies which they possess and practise, yet this Grand Lodge insists that those forms, practices, and ceremonies which are of a public nature, do not belong to the original plan of Freemasonry, and that this Grand Lodge will not suffer itself to be misled into following those practices which pertain exclusively to other bodies, of which the public installation of officers is one of the most conspicuous. Likewise Bro. Vaux insisted that the law of this Grand Lodge did not countenance public parading in frequent and promiscuous public ceremonies. He insisted that it was the secrecy and exclusiveness of Masonic bodies which invested them with their mystery; and secured and maintained that position in the community which made Freemasonry dignified and respected everywhere. This Grand Lodge owes much to Bro. Vaux for the position which it holds in the community, and it was by his resolution and emphatic protest against public displays that he aided in creating and preserving that position.

The Grand Representative System was another matter, which although of comparatively modern growth, was soon discovered by Bro. Vaux to be fraught with danger to the harmony which should exist between the Grand Lodges, by creating disputes and contentions upon mere questions of etiquette, which did not affect the landmarks of Freemasonry or the rights and privileges of the Brethren.

In his report made in December, 1861, Bro. Vaux said, 'We take leave most respectfully to suggest that a system of permanent grand representation between any of the Right Worshipful Grand Lodges of the United States and the various Right Worshipful Grand Lodges of Europe may be of doubtful propriety. Of this system itself we are by no means an advocate. Representation of one Grand Lodge to another in special cases and for particular purposes is no doubt Masonic and beneficial. Then the object to be attained is special, the duty circumscribed, the responsibility fixed. In such cases we believe good may be produced. But a representation without object or purpose, only to co-relate jurisdictions, to mark Masonic respect, to indicate friendly relations between Grand Lodges, is not essential to Masonic interest, to say the least.'

Controversies concerning the persons who should be appointed representatives, and the right to object to them, led to strained relations between several Grand Lodges. This Grand Lodge suffered but little in this respect; but it did have at least one unpleasant episode, and, for the purpose of avoiding any more, it was resolved that the system should be abolished, so far as this Grand Lodge is concerned. This action was taken with the approval, advice, and assistance of Brother Vaux. It was thought that the system brought no advantages in return for the perils to which it subjected the entire Craft throughout the world.

While Brother Vaux's affections were set altogether upon the Grand Lodge and its mission and work, yet he was a member of other Masonic bodies, and interested in their welfare. He was a member of Harmony Chapter, No. 52, having received the Capitular Degrees on September 24, 1846. By virtue of his office as Past Grand Master, he was also a member of the Most Excellent Grand Chapter. He was also a member of Philadelphia Commandery, No. 2, Knights Templar, having been knighted on November 17, 1855.

Besides his incessant labors as Chairman of the Committee on Correspondence, he was, for several years prior to his death, the leading editorial writer of *The Keystone*, the only Masonic paper published within the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge. Brethren who have had the pleasure of reading his articles could hardly fail to know who wrote them; they were so original, bold, independent and convincing.

Brother Vaux was a member of the Bar Association of the State of Pennsylvania, and also a member of the American Bar Association, serving in high offices in the latter body. He was always present at gatherings of lawyers, and was the centre of a witty, bright, and intellectual company of conversationalists.

He was also prominent in public politics, and held several important public offices. Immediately upon his admission to the Bar, and before he was of full age—that is, in April, 1837—he was sent to London as a bearer of despatches to the American Minister, the Honorable Andrew Stevenson. On his arrival there he was made a member of the legation, and after a short term of service he resigned to visit the continent of Europe, and returned to his native land in 1839. He was Recorder of the City of Philadelphia for seven years, commencing in 1841, and a member of the Board of Controllers of the public schools. He was an

Inspector of the Eastern State Penitentiary from January, 1842, until the time of his death, serving over fifty-three years in that important position; during which time he wrote more literature on the subject of prison management than perhaps any other person who has written on that subject.

He was also a member of the Board of Directors of Girard College from 1858 to 1866, and from 1884 until the time of his death. In all these public bodies he took the deepest interest in their affairs, and gave an active and efficient service, leaving an impress upon them which will not soon be forgotten. He was Mayor of the City from May, 1856, for two years, and announced views concerning the proper form of municipal government, which he enforced by his speeches and writings, and he lived to see them adopted nearly thirty years afterwards in the present city charter. He served in the United States Congress in the years 1890 and 1891, and was a conspicuous member of that august and honorable assembly.

He was taken from us at a time when his mental vigor was unimpaired, although he had reached the ripe age of more than seventy-eight years. During all his life he was active, vigilant and industrious, and when principles were at stake, firm and combative. As I have before said, this Grand Lodge has been honored in the one hundred and sixty-five years of its existence with Grand Masters who were learned, able and active in the dissemination of Masonic light, but no one of them has shed more lustre upon this Grand Lodge, and Freemasonry in general, than he whose death we so much lament and whose memory we now celebrate.

Further tributes were eloquently paid by distinguished brethren.

The Grand Lodge of Maryland, in their resolutions of condolence, said of Brother Vaux:

"In ripe learning, long and faithful service, broad and catholic views, amiable and loving regard for his fellows, and in all that goes to make up the good man and true Mason, our Brother was fairly entitled to rank as the 'First Mason of the Republic.'"

The Grand Lodge of British Columbia proffer fraternal condolence upon the death of this distinguished Brother to the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, and sympathize with them in their great bereavement.

The next annual will be held on 27th of December, 1896

Note the Grand Master on

PHYSICAL PERFECTION.

One of the questions the Grand Master is often obliged to decide is that of the physical qualifications of candidates for initiation. It is not a difficult one, for the law is plain; if it were not so plain it would not be so troublesome as it is. Though the Landmark is so well established and the usage of this Grand Lodge so well known, the lame and the halt, and those suffering with various slight mutilations, have come be-

fore me to ascertain if they could receive the degrees. To refuse some of them seemed like a great hardship and was a most unpleasant duty, and I do not doubt that they and their friends left me feeling that I was unsympathetic and unreasonable, while in truth I was neither, and would have been glad to decide otherwise. The only place to draw the line is where perfection would be on one side, and imperfection, however slight, on the other. Once cross the line but a hair's breadth and the Landmark falls. This fundamental law of our Craft has been so often enunciated from this station that it should not be necessary to say more in regard to it, and I only refer to it now to show the great pressure that continues to be brought to set it aside, and the necessity for firmness against the least semblance of relaxation.

There is no doubt but that Masonry in this jurisdiction must "hew to the line." The Grand Master decided that—

"It is not proper for the Worshipful Master to receive the Tyler's avouchment for a stranger from the Pursuivant. When the latter announces that the former can vouch for a stranger, the Tyler should be required to come into the Lodge-room and make his avouchment directly to the Worshipful Master. There will then be no danger of the identity of the visitor being lost. Any other method is not proper and cannot be permitted.

A man who cannot write cannot be made a Mason. An applicant must, with his own hand, sign his name in full to the petition. A mark X cannot be accepted. A man who in this age of free schools has arrived at years of maturity without one of the rudiments of the most ordinary education does not manifest intelligence and ambition enough to be a useful member of our Fraternity. We cannot condone or tolerate that degree of ignorance.

As it has been decided that it is improper to send notice of Lodge meetings on postal cards (Pro. 1889, p. 142), and to publish the same in a newspaper (Pro. 1892, p. 133), it is evidently the intention that such notices should be a private communication between the sender and the recipient. To carry out that intention to the fullest extent I decide that all notices contemplated by Article XVIII, Section 9, of the Ahiman Rezon, must be sent in sealed envelopes.

I quite agree with No. 2. No. 1 smacks too much of formality, as the Grand Tyler can vouch outside the door as well as inside and have the same effect. No. 3 is purely a matter of opinion, and we cannot see any harm to Masonry in the publishing of notices for meetings only; if business of a private nature such as balloting or conferring degrees, then the sealed envelope method is the correct one.

A rare occurrence—

CONFERRING THE DEGREES AT SIGHT.

"September 7, I exercised the prerogative of a Grand Master by conferring the degrees at sight on Samuel B. Huey, a resident of Philadelphia. While some jurisdictions deny this right to the Grand Master, Pennsylvania has adhered tenaciously to the ancient Landmark, and

there have been but few of our Grand Masters who have not observed it at least once. We do it for the purpose of keeping the custom green in the minds of the Brethren, and lest it become forgotten and fall into decay by reason of disuse. The Grand Master always endeavors to select a candidate worthy of the honor conferred—one who conforms physically, mentally, and morally to the requirements of the Craft."

Past Grand Master the Hon. John W. Champlin of Michigan thus explains this "Prerogative" :—

"It is also a prerogative of the Grand Master to 'make Masons at sight.' Perhaps there has been no subject which has afforded more dispute among Masons than this Landmark. Some deny that there ever was or is any such Landmark. Others assert that if it ever existed it was never exercised. The trouble arises over the meaning of the expression 'making Masons at sight.' If that expression be rightly understood, there is no question that the Landmark has always existed. Some suppose that the expression means that a Grand Master can take a profane into a private room, and there, at sight, declare to him 'I make you a Master Mason.' No such prerogative exists. What is meant by the Landmark is, that the Grand Master may, by virtue of his office, summon to his assistance not less than six other Masons, convene a Lodge, and without any previous probation, but on sight of the candidate, confer the degrees upon him, after which he dissolves the Lodge and dismisses the Brethren.

"This is the only way in which any Grand Master within the records of the institution has ever been known to make Masons at sight. It is readily seen that the prerogative is the same as that of granting dispensations to open and hold lodges."

The Grand Master, speaking of "Unaffiliates" desiring Masonic burial, concludes by saying :—

"Masonry is for Masons, for Masons in fact, and not for Masons in name only, and those who wish to receive Masonic burial should make such provision during life that a dispensation will not be needed."

Report on Correspondence is by Bro. Arnold, P.G.M. British Columbia for 1894 has considerable space, and is fraternally reviewed. The Chairman's opening remarks conclude :—

"The best tribute which we of Pennsylvania can pay to the memory of Richard Vaux is to practise the Masonry he taught and so firmly believed in and upheld; the Masonry which has come down to us from 'the aforesaid;' which resists all attempt at modern improvement, and which does not seek to adapt itself to nineteenth century ideas of what Masonry should be. Let us endeavor to do this that as he looks upon us from the realms of light it may be with commendation and approval.

As a reviewer he had a style of his own which we have not attempted to imitate or even to approach, nor have we continued the discussions which engaged his attention in his last report."

R. W. MATHIAS H. HENDERSON (re-elected),
Grand Master.

R. W. MICHAEL NESBETT,
Grand Secretary.

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Prince Edward Island

20TH ANNUAL—SUMMERSIDE—24TH JUNE, 1895.

M. W. Thomas A. McLean, Grand Master.

THREE decisions in harmony with local law are reported. Returns show 12 Lodges with 509 Master Masons. The Grand Lodge of New Zealand was accorded fraternal recognition.

No report on Correspondence.

M. W. RODERICK McNEILL,
Grand Master, Stanley Bridge.

R. W. NEIL MacKELVIE,
Grand Secretary, Summerside.

—:O:—

Quebec

26TH ANNUAL—MONTREAL—29TH JANUARY, 1896.

M. W. F. Massey, Grand Master.

OUR Representative was present, R. W. Bro. D. Anderson. The Grand Master said in his address :

"The most superficial observer of Freemasonry cannot be otherwise than forcibly impressed with the great advances our Order is making throughout the Dominion, and especially in this, our Province of Quebec.

At no time in our history have we been so progressive, and so adhesive, both as individual Masons and as Subordinate Lodges composing our Grand Lodge of Quebec. Indeed, it cannot be otherwise, living in such an intelligent age as the Nineteenth Century, where education is so free and so general, that an Order, such as ours, founded upon its firm foundations and solid principles, should be fully appreciated and taken advantage of, as it is at the present time.

As far as our foreign relations are concerned they remain very much as heretofore, the Lodges having Jurisdiction under the Grand Lodge of England, being still in existence in the City of Montreal. There are not wanting in my opinion, signs, that these Lodges will possibly in the near future, consider seriously, benefits which would accrue to them from being in much closer contact to their Grand Body than they are at present.

Without going closely into this question, which has been so fully discussed heretofore, I dismiss the subject with the remark that it is to be hoped that ere long Lodges referred to will recognize it as their duty to relieve the Grand Lodge of England from the somewhat, no doubt to them, embarrassing position of still allowing Lodges to work under English charters in this Province of Quebec; a position which, undoubtedly, no Grand Lodge cares to maintain, and one which has now become so solitary as to be marked among the Grand Lodges of the Masonic World.

At the last Session of the Parliament of Canada, an amendment was made to Consolidated Statutes, which places the Grand Lodge of Quebec beyond all question in the exercise of the same privileges, as those heretofore extended by the law to the Grand Lodge of Canada and Grand Lodge of England. The amendment was applied for on the suggestion of M. W. Bro. R. T. Walkem, Q. C., of Kingston, Past Grand Master of Canada, he having, in the course of his friendly mediation between Grand Lodge of England and ourselves, deemed it in the interest of our Grand Lodge as finally and fully disposing of any claim which had been made regarding our position as Masons in this Province."

Two rulings are reported :

"A member of this Lodge having exercised his privilege of balloting for Candidates continued to object to their initiation after their election. The W. M. asked for a ruling as to the Brother's right to continually object, thus causing the work of the Lodge to be completely arrested and upsetting the By-law, which required two black balls to reject, thus controlling all admissions by, in reality, his objecting.

I therefore ruled that it was not the intention of the Constitution to allow any Brother, by objecting continually, to prevent the admission of candidates, and ordered them to proceed at once with the initiation of the two gentlemen in question pending any necessary amendment to Constitution."

I was not aware that any jurisdiction allowed more than one black ball to reject candidates; it appears that Quebec allows two. The Grand Master was sustained in his ruling.

A most eloquent discourse on "Masonry and Religion" by the R. W. Bro. Rev. R. W. Henton was delivered before Grand Lodge.

Returns show that there are 56 Lodges with 3530 Master Masons in Quebec.

Report on Foreign Correspondence is by Bro. E. T. D. Chambers, who presented his tenth annual review, which is in every respect fully up to the high standard attained by this writer, notwithstanding that he was unhappily interfered with in his work by the sickness and death of a beloved son. Our deepest sympathy is extended you, Bro. Chambers, in your sore affliction.

British Columbia for 1895 was reviewed and considerable space accorded to extracts from V. W. Grand Chaplain's (Bro. Logan) "admirable sermon."

We deem the following opening remarks of Bro. Chambers of sufficient interest to the Craft, to be reproduced.

PROGRESS OF THE ORDER.

"It is gratifying to note the continued prosperity and progress of our Order. M. W. Bro. Jesse B. Anthony, Past Grand Master and Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence of the Grand Lodge of New York, prepared a statistical table in June, 1895, showing a net gain in membership, upon the North American continent alone, since 1894, of 19,510, and a total of 767,761 Master Masons, belonging to 11,807 Subordinate Lodges. Less than four years ago, in May, 1892, the total membership of Lodges owing obedience to the Grand Lodges of the North American continent, was estimated by ——— Bro. Drummond of Maine at 695,193. An increase of over 72,500 since that period is certainly something of which we have reason to be proud. Including non-affiliates, there is little doubt that the members of our Order number over a million of men in North America alone. So vast an army, banded together in the bonds of fraternal union and brotherly love, ought certainly, if true to its obligations, to be a great factor in the preservation of peace, and certainly between neighbors speaking the same language and tracing their origin to a common stock.

ONE OF THE MISSIONS OF FREEMASONRY.

When the peace of the world is endangered by the sayings and doings of reckless individuals who are prepared to cater to the lowest prejudices of the worst elements of the times, for the promotion of their own personal or political ends, then may Masons well stand shoulder to shoulder the world over for international peace, as good men in all times have done before them, whose lives have been dominated by an active and living faith in "the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man."

' A time like this demands
Strong minds, great hearts, true faith and ready hands ;
Men, whom the lust of office does not kill ;
Men, whom the spoils of office cannot buy ;
Men, who possess opinions and a will ;
Men, who have honor ; men, who will not lie ;
Men, who can stand before the demagogue,

And damn his treacherous flatteries without winking.
 Tall men, sun crowned, who live above the fog,
 In public duty, and in private thinking,
 For, while the rabble, with their thumb-worn creeds,
 Their large professions, and their little deeds,
 Mingle in selfish strife, lo! Freedom weeps!
 Wrong rules the land, and waiting justice sleeps.'

The fraternal sentiments recently exchanged between representative bodies of Masons in Montreal and New York, in Manitoba and Minnesota, show that the great heart of American and Canadian Freemasonry throbs aright, and is alive alike to its privileges and its responsibilities.

A true Mason is a true patriot, because Masonry teaches its initiates to pay due obedience to the laws of any state which may for a time become the place of their residence or afford them its protection, and above all to never lose sight of the allegiance due to the legitimate authority of their native land. And when international misunderstandings and disputes threaten the public peace, the good Mason, like the good patriot that he must needs be, while ready at all times to give practical proof of his attachment to the land of his home and family, will still take for his motto the song of the angels, 'Peace on earth to men of good will,' and for his country's,—so far as he can influence it—the prudential and patriotic, yet not unfriendly or offensive device, 'Defence, not defiance.'

FREEMASONRY AND THE POPE.

There has recently been brought to our notice a circular letter addressed to the various Masonic governing bodies of the world by the Grand Master of Italian Masonry, inviting them to send representatives or assurances of fraternal adhesion to the celebration in September last, at Rome, of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the termination of the temporal power of the Papacy.

We have not learned what responses were received by Italian Freemasons to this appeal, but we should not like English-speaking Freemasonry to be held responsible for any sympathy extended to the authors of the circular by the so-called Masonry of the Latin countries of Europe and South America. Of much that passes for Masonry under the government of the Grand Orient, we are, not unreasonably, very suspicious. Only a year ago, for invasion of our territory and for ignoring our protest thereanent, the Grand Lodge of Quebec withdrew its recognition of the so-called Grand Symbolic Lodge of Spain and severed all fraternal intercourse therewith. The alleged Masonry of the Grand Orient of France has been repudiated by legitimate Freemasons everywhere, because of its wicked and un-Masonic ignoring of the God of Masonry,—the Great Architect of the Universe. The so-called Freemasons of some other Latin lands are deservedly repudiated by legitimate Craftsmen for their prostitution of their Lodges to religious and political plots. Whatever part they may have taken in the celebration of the anniversary of the loss of the temporal power of the Papacy, legitimate Masonry is not responsible therefor. English-speaking Freemasonry, at all events, could have no part in such celebration. It has nothing whatever to do with the plots, the politics or the revolutions of other lands. Such things dare not so much as be mentioned within its Lodges. It has no quarrel with the Pope of Rome, and the question of either his spiritual or temporal power is none of its concern. Successive Popes have banned Freemasonry, attempting to punish the Masonry of Britain and America that they know nothing of, and that never did them or thought of doing them any harm, for the misguided actions of Grand Orient and Symbolic Grand Lodges that it repudiates, which having departed from the spirit and teachings of Freemasonry have

embroiled themselves in political and religious feuds, diametrically opposed to the teachings of the Order. Yet Masonry goes on the even tenor of its ways, strong in the confidence that there is a good time coming, in which the eyes of the blind will be opened, and those who now sit in the shadow of darkness and prejudice will recognize the fact that in teaching the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man, with all the morality and obedience and faith and love that such relations imply, neither Pope nor Cardinal, Bishop nor Priest, Evangelist nor Presbyterian has any more faithful ally than genuine Freemasonry.

The English translation of the Italian circular herein referred to, which strangely enough is dated from the Borghese Palace in Rome, is as follows :—

‘ HONORED AND DEAR BRETHREN,

On the 20th September, this year, Italy, united in nation, will solemnly celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the deliverance of her Capital.

With the restitution of Rome to the Fatherland, the temporal power of the Popes came to an end; therefore the feast of the 20th September does not concern our nation only, but all civilized nations.

Italian Masonry which had such a share in the work for the unification of Italy and the destruction of the temporal power of the Papacy, has resolved to take a public part in the festivity.

Will not the Masonic families of other lands likewise attend the commemoration of the greatest event of our century? We feel sure they will. Therefore we hereby invite your Supreme Masonic Power to send its delegates to the feasts of September next, or, should this be absolutely impossible, to forward us, at least, officially, its fraternal adhesion.

May it be said that in that most prosperous day, the thought and love of the Masons of the world do palpitate in Rome redeemed to freedom?

Waiting for your prompt response, we beg you illustrious Brethren to accept our three-fold fraternal salute.

ADRIANO LEMMI, 33.

The Grand Master.

ETTOES FERRARI, 33.

The Grand Secretary.

ULISSE BACCI, 33.

The Head of the Grand Secretariate.’

OUR SURROUNDINGS.

Some of the pictures drawn in our former Reports, of the peculiar surroundings of Freemasonry in this Province, though presenting nothing novel to the Brethren of our own Jurisdiction, have excited the utmost curiosity and surprise among some of our Brethren of the Masonic Corps Reportorial. Within the last few months there has appeared here a novel of the twentieth century, from the pen of an anti-Masonic writer—the same who was referred to by us some years ago in one of these Reports, as having entered upon a crusade against a French Canadian beer bottler for employing upon his labels a red triangle, on the ground that it was a Masonic emblem; and who also appealed to Cardinal Tascheranu to ban both bottler, beer and bottles, with bell, book and candle.

The Cardinal decided that the triangle was not a Masonic emblem, and there the matter ended, but the author of the attack has followed up his arraignment of Freemasonry by writing the novel already referred to, for the purpose of illustrating his contention that Masonry is devil worship, and Masons a Society of plotters against law and order, whether human or divine, who seek the subversion alike of religion and of constitutional government, and whose Lodges are not only the headquarters of lawless conspiracies against both their God and their fellow men, but little hells upon earth, in the shape of private cabinets in which the Prince of Darkness in material form is called up and communicated with at will !

Little surprise as may be occasioned by these representations, amongst those acquainted with the methods and tenets of anti-Masonic ignorance and fanaticism, it will not be without some wonderment, we believe, that the facts will go forth, that the Government of the Province of Quebec has purchased some hundreds of copies of this book for distribution as prizes to the children of the public schools !

AN ANTI-MASONIC LEAGUE IN FRANCE.

There has been recently established in France an organization called '*la ligue du labarum anti maconnique*,' which is described as 'a militant Catholic Order for the defence of the faith and of the rights and property of the Church against Freemasonry.' Supreme pity is excited for the ignorance that arrays men in the name of religion against the teachings of the highest and best morality and most boundless charity. Little as we admire some of the practices of the Grand Orient of France, it is interesting to note its influence and ramifications as described in the first number of '*L'Anti-Macon*,'—the official organ of the league above referred to, which was issued in Paris on the 1st January, 1896. This publication is ornamented with a picture representing an archangel, presumably Michael, (though we have no means of tracing its resemblance to the original,) trampling down an uncommonly forbidding looking Mephisto into the bottomless pit, and with his javelin so close to Lucifer's breast, that if the pictorial representation be correct, nothing but the most criminal neglect of a plain duty and most blessed opportunity upon the part of the Archangel is responsible for any degree of life that may still be left in the downed monster.

The paper before us declares in its very first article that the present government of France is a Masonic Ministry, and an offensive and defensive alliance against Freemasonry is justified by it on the contention that the fraternity threatens the existence of the religious communities and is the enemy of youth, of woman, of religion, of the family, of authority, of the Church, of the republic and God. We give as near as possible in the very words of '*L'Anti-Macon*' a translation of the origin of the new anti-Masonic league :—

'As in the days of Ignatius of Loyola, a humble little group of friends and of brother-in-arms assembled at Montmartre, at the feet of the Virgin, under the rays of the Sacred heart, not far from the statue of Ignatius of Loyola, and without having alas ! neither the holiness nor the genius of the companions of the immortal founder of the Company of Jesus, but with a faithful heart and an entire good will, promised God to form the nucleus of a new militia, of a new military order, under the instruction of the Holy See, under obedience of the diocesan bishops, to combat the Satanic Sect—which holds the Christian people of France under its insupportable tyranny.'

The founders of the League claims that unlike Freemasonry they have no secrets. Yet, their members take fictitious names and unlike Masons avoid the publication of their real ones. They have pass-words

and secret initiation ceremonies. They have even the audacity to add that Freemasons do not print certain of their secret words, because spelled in certain order they are found to conceal infamies, which the leaguers [pretend to expose by giving as examples 'Nikai' and 'Zahob.' The League confers different degrees upon men and women; the latter being 'Sisters of Joan of Arc,' while men may receive three degrees; those of the 'Legion of Constantine,' 'Soldier of St. Michael' and 'Knight of the Sacred Heart.' Fac-similes are printed in *L'Anti-Macon* of the certificates issued to 'Sisters of Joan of Arc,' and of the plan of the halls of Labarum. An altar stands at the back of the hall upon which is a statue of the Sacred Heart, having on its right the statue of St. Michael, the Archangel, and on its left that of 'the Venerable Joan of Arc.' Amongst the engagements assumed by the members of the League, we may mention a couple. One is to offer their lives to God each morning on rising, for the conversion of Freemasons. Another is to have no business relations with them whatever. While we can have no objection to the prayers of good, though misguided men anywhere, so long as they desire an expansion of our charity and an extension of our good works, the anti-Masonic leaguers will not increase our gratitude to them by desiring for us any narrowing circle of influence for good, whether in our business relations or otherwise, such as they have circumscribed for themselves.

While the Grand Orient of France has undoubtedly departed very far from the conditions of legitimate Freemasonry, and is perhaps partially responsible for the existence of the new league, it will not likely be tempted to go into hysterics over the establishment of a counter irritant. It is probably too much to expect that the new condition of affairs in France will prove useful to the Grand Orient or lead to its renunciation of modern errors; and therefore, while still entertaining the broadest charity and sincerest pity for the anti-Masons of France, we must regret our inability to wish that success to the new League which we desire for all bodies of men properly banded together upon broad humanitarian and unsectarian lines, for the betterment of their race and the furtherance of the Masonic virtues of morality, faith, hope and charity.

CALLED HOME.

In glancing back over the ten years of service that we have given our Grand Lodge as Chairman of its Committee of Correspondence, it is impossible to avoid a feeling of sadness as we contemplate the many gaps that have occurred in the ranks of those of our Brethren who have been called to the performance of similar duties. Bro. Stevenson of Idaho remarks that of the forty-eight Brothers who annually contribute to our literature, but twenty-three of those who greeted his entrance eight years ago are now members of the guild. The last year or two has witnessed the "calling home" of an unusually large number of eminent Masonic authorities with whom we had been associated in correspondence, either as Grand Secretaries or Grand Lodge Reviewers. Amongst those whose names thus occur to us are those of the leading Masonic jurist and historian, Past Grand Master Richard Vaux, Chairman of the Committee of Foreign Correspondence of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania; the brilliant and versatile George C. Connor, Past Grand Master, and Chairman of the Committee of Foreign Correspondence of the Grand Lodge of Tennessee; P. G. M. and Grand Secretary John Frizzell, of the same jurisdiction; the veteran William B. Isaacs, for over fifty years Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Virginia; the learned Henry Vehslage, for years Chairman of the Committee of Correspondence for the Grand Lodge of New Jersey; the well-known statesman, author and Mason, S. F. Chadwick, of Oregon, who had been Governor of his State, and was

Past Grand Master, Grand Secretary and Chairman of the Committee of Foreign Correspondence ; and Joseph K. Wheeler, the Grand Secretary, Chairman of the Committee of Foreign Correspondence, and sweet poet of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut.

They are At Rest from their labors. May it be in blessed peace ! Their memories will ever be warmly cherished, and the Brethren with whom they associated in life have our sincere sympathy in the bereavement they have been called upon to sustain by their death. May the knowledge that they have been summoned from their labors, stimulate us to perform our allotted task while it is yet day, knowing that the night cometh wherein no man can work.

FREDERICK MASSEY,

M. W. Grand Master, Montreal.

JOHN H. ISAACSON,

R. W. Grand Secretary, Montreal.

—:O:—

Rhode Island

105TH ANNUAL—PROVIDENCE—20TH MAY, 1895.

M. W. Elisha H. Rhodes, Grand Master,

WHO reported "Peace and harmony prevail throughout our jurisdiction and disturbing questions have been few and easily settled."

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence reported on the Mississippi Rules, viz :—

"All that is proposed, therefore, in this matter by the Grand Lodge of Mississippi, is that a compact or treaty should be entered into between it and other Grand Lodges sharing its views, these Grand Bodies coming into such an alliance being bound by the Rules, as aforesaid, while no attempt is to be made to bind other Grand Lodges to the terms set forth. This proffered treaty bears the stamp of an equitable and fraternal feeling ; yet there is a question as to the formation of the proposed alliance, quite apart from the merits of the *Rules* which are recommended. The absolute sovereignty of each Grand Lodge is a fundamental doctrine of American Freemasonry, and any alliance or compact which might possibly restrict the action of a Grand Lodge in legislating upon matters affecting its own affairs, should be regarded with disfavor. Even a most desirable uniformity of action ought not to be obtained by any weakening of this principle of complete Grand Lodge sovereignty with its own territorial jurisdiction. Your Committee would hesitate, therefore, because of this suggested objection, to recommend that the Grand Lodge of Rhode Island should become a party to the alliance proposed.

As regards the Rules enacted by the Grand Lodge of Mississippi, and now brought under review, much difference of opinion prevails upon the questions interwoven therewith. The first of the proposed Rules pertains to jurisdiction over rejected petitioners who shall have taken up their residence within the territory of another Grand Lodge. How long shall a rejection within the Grand Lodge jurisdiction be regarded as a disqualification in another jurisdiction where the petitioner has taken up his residence? How shall the disqualification be removed? Under a strict construction of the rule of perpetual jurisdiction a rejection of a petitioner operates as a bar against any other Lodge, at any time, receiving and acting upon the application of such petitioner, unless the permission of the rejecting Lodge be first obtained. The old Masonic rule was rigid in this respect. The equities involved seem to favor a less permanent disqualification. Many Grand Lodges in recent years have legislated upon this subject, and have fixed a limit of jurisdiction, giving an absolute release over rejected applicants, residing in other Grand Lodge territory, after a term of one, two, three, five or seven years. The first named period, as named in the Mississippi plan, seems too brief, inviting as it might the removal of candidates from one jurisdiction to another for the purpose of obtaining the degrees; the last named limit appears rather long. Perhaps three or five years would be an ample time.

Your Committee, however, find themselves unable to favor the Mississippi Rule, which fixes the limit as stated, because of other reasons besides those which pertain to the term of jurisdiction or disqualification. They deem it improper and inexpedient to seek information as proposed, from a rejecting Lodge, '*of the grounds on which the petition was rejected.*' How, indeed, shall such information be given, if the inviolability of the secret ballot is maintained? Unless the brother who casts an adverse ballot chooses to avow his reasons, which strictly speaking, he has no right to do, neither the Subordinate Lodge nor the Grand Lodge having original jurisdiction would be able to furnish the *grounds* upon which the rejection of a petitioner was made. It does not seem proper to ask a Lodge to do this in order that some other Lodge might 'pass upon the sufficiency thereof.'

As regards the several elements included in the second Rule, it appears to your Committee that while the proposition for release of jurisdiction over Apprentices and Fellow Crafts, under the conditions stated, has much to commend it, there would be a constant liability to confusion and friction in applying the first *proviso*, contained in the Mississippi plan, viz.: 'that should the Lodge which has acquired jurisdiction by the proposed new rule reject the petitioner for advancement, then the Lodge from whose record the name has been erased is to resume jurisdiction.' The second proviso is but the statement of a generally prevalent Masonic law, though it is not universal, and to it no objection is likely to be made.

The first named proviso, however, does not meet the approval of your Committee; and because of its requirement, and also for the indefiniteness of statement as to what constitutes a Lodge certificate of 'willingness,' there would appear to be good grounds for withholding assent from the Rule as a whole.

Recognizing the fraternal feeling which prompted our sister Grand Lodge of Mississippi to take the action herewith reviewed, and to propose the enactment of the Rules which are made a part of this report,

your Committee would recommend that no action be taken on said 'Rules,' and that the circular referred to be placed on file."

Respectfully submitted,

HENRY W. RUGG,
JOSEPH W. FREEMAN,

Committee on Foreign Correspondence.

Providence, May 20th, 1895.

Whereupon it is

Ordered, That the report be received, recorded and placed on file, and that the recommendation contained therein be and the same is hereby approved.

Returns show 4768 members. No report on Correspondence.

EDWARD P. LOWDEN,

M. W. Grand Master.

EDWIN BAKER,

R. W. Grand Secretary, Providence.

—:O:—

South Australia

The Earl of Kintore, Grand Master,

HAVING been elected and proclaimed at the previous Quarterly, was saluted according to ancient form at the Quarterly Communication of July, 1894.

The installation of the Masters-elect of six of the Subordinates, and investiture of the Wardens, was made the occasion of a successful function, with ceremonial display and musical embellishment.

Two stated Communications a year being deemed sufficient for the requirements of the Craft, the Constitution was amended in this relation.

A Special was called to present to the Grand Master the adieux and express the loyal sentiments of the Craft on the withdrawal of the Brother from the Colony.

From the address presented to the Departing Brother, these *excerpta*.

"During the last few days there have been, and during the next few days there will be, a series of farewell demonstrations manifesting the admiration and esteem which have been inspired by the residence of our Most Worshipful Grand Master amongst us. One of the most interesting of these demonstrations is this Masonic farewell, because of the closer relationship which exists between our Most Worshipful Grand Master and his brethren, than between himself and the other colonists of South Australia. We are united to the Most Worshipful Grand Master not merely by a common nationality, not merely by a common citizenship, not only by the loyalty which we owe to Her Majesty's representative, not merely by social, friendly and official relationships, but by a more sacred tie—by a bond of common brotherhood and by the fealty which we owe to the Supreme Ruler of the Craft in this country.

The prestige which you brought to the Grand Master's office as Governor of the Colony was accentuated by the historical associations of your name with our Order. During the last five years the South Australian Constitution has enjoyed the unique distinction of having as its head a collateral descendant of one of the early Grand Masters of the English and Scottish Constitutions. But, Most Worshipful Grand Master, you brought something more than an illustrious name; you brought to us a superb record of service to the Craft in the mother country as Substitute Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, and as Past Grand Master of the Grand Mark Lodge of England and the colonies. And you came to us also with qualifications shadowed out in the Ancient Charges of being nobly born, a gentleman of the best quality, and of singularly great merit in the opinion of all the Lodges.

Until April next, Most Worshipful Grand Master, you will continue to hold your present office, and on the floor of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, as Grand Master of South Australia, you will be able on the highest possible authority to assure our brethren on the other side of the world of our loyalty to Masonic principles, and of our fraternal regard for the Scottish Constitution. Masonic union and Masonic independence in these colonies, so far from separating us from our brethren in the venerable Constitutions of England, Ireland and Scotland, have rather drawn us closer together and made union more apparent."

From the response, these :

"When I first came amongst you I received a welcome which could nowhere have been surpassed, neither by my own Scottish brethren nor by the brethren of the Mark in England, and that is a circumstance which you may trust me not to forget. Six months after my arrival in the colony I was honored by being elected by your unanimous suffrages to the office of Grand Master—an expression of your confidence which has been repeated each year since then. Brethren, I have valued this compliment all the more—first, as identifying myself and my title more closely than ever with Masonry on both sides of the world; and secondly, as an expression of the loyalty of South Australia Masons, for it is to Her Majesty's representative that this great personal tribute has been paid. M. W. G. Sir, before my arrival in Australia the movement in favor of Masonic union had, first in this colony and afterwards in New South Wales and Victoria, been crowned with victory. It has been my good fortune to witness the good effects of that principle both in uniting us more completely within our respective jurisdictions, and also in drawing more closely the ties of brotherhood which unite us with our brethren outside our own territories. * * *

"My Grand Mastership has been marked by a conservative and statesmanlike amendment and consolidation of the Constitutions, and by a careful, a reverent and scholarly revision of the Ritual. Without introducing innovations into Masonry, the revised Ritual, based chiefly upon the English Ritual, incorporates some of the more valuable and impressive features of the Rituals of Scotland and of Ireland. I feel that we are under substantial obligations to those brethren who were primarily charged with this revision, and I am glad to pay my tribute to their fraternal zeal. Another most satisfactory feature of my tenure of office has been the complete freeing from debt of the handsome and commodious premises of which this hall forms part. * * * These premises are now the unencumbered property of the South Australian Constitution, and its revenue is to-day devoted, not to the payment of the interest or of rent, but to benevolence and relief."

From the record—

"The brethren saluted the Grand Master, who then left the hall escorted by Grand Officers. During his exit His Excellency turned round, and addressing the brethren, said: 'I cannot leave Grand Lodge for the last time without asking you to believe that from the bottom of my heart I wish this Grand Lodge and every member of it everything that is good.'"

"We live in deeds, not years; in thoughts, not breaths;
In feelings, not in figures on a dial.
We should count time by heart-throbs. He most lives
Who thinks most—feels the noblest, acts the best."

An article appearing in a newspaper called "Masonry," reflecting upon the management of the funds, and replete with inaccuracies, it was thought proper to print the paragraphs and the refutation side by side, vindicating the Grand Lodge, and putting the author of the libel to shame.

At the Semi-annual held April, 1895, Brother Sanson, Deputy Grand Master, nominated the Pro Grand Master, Bro. S. J. Way, Lieutenant-Governor, for the office of Grand Master, stating that it was exactly eleven years that night since his installation as the first Grand Master, a position occupied by him many years. On being invested with the insignia of the office the brother was welcomed back to the chair which he had previously filled "with conspicuous ability." Proclamation was then made, and the Grand Master was "saluted according to ancient custom."

M. W. S. J. WAY,
Grand Master.

R. W. J. H. CUNNINGHAM,
Grand Secretary

South Carolina

119TH ANNUAL—CHARLESTON—10TH DECEMBER, 1895.

M. W. Claude E. Sawyer, Grand Master.

OUR Representative not present. The Grand Master said : " Masonry is improving in South Carolina. It is not growing very rapidly in numbers, but taken as a whole the character and tone is tending upward." The District Deputy system appears to have proven another failure in this State. Grand Master Sanper gives the Craft some very plain talk and wholesome advice, which is worthy the perusal of every Lodge and Mason.

" Brethren, I ask you to examine the reports during all these years and you will find that we were busy all that time manufacturing Masons. Where are they ? I believe the number of unaffiliated in South Carolina is as great as the affiliates. There must be some reason for this, and I believe I can point out to you some of the many reasons.

Dr. Mackey says—Ahiman Rezon, page 153 :

' Too little attention is, in general, paid to the qualification of Masters of Lodges. It is not alone sufficient that they are honest, good men ; but they must be well acquainted with Masonry as a science, with the principles and doctrines of the Craft and able to teach them. *They must be men of education and general information, and such as are esteemed in the community. Ambitious seekers of honors and intriguers for office must be discouraged. Everything like party must be discountenanced.*' (Italics mine.)

It is a sad commentary on our ancient and honourable institution founded upon friendship, morality and brotherly love, whose purpose is to encourage the search for truth through the medium of the first and deepest of all sciences, that it should have for its principal officers, men who have pushed themselves forward till they have reached the highest places in their Lodges, and yet, do not understand the simplest rudiments of the science which they undertake to teach.

What can be more discouraging to a man of education and refined feeling and cultivated tastes, than to have our beautiful and impressive ceremonies bungled through in the most slipshod manner, without any semblance of the true symbolism. Is it any wonder that such men drop out and join that ever-increasing army of non-affiliates ?

Many of our laws are plain, but none but those who have been through the Grand East, and the Grand Secoetary, can form any idea of the ignorance of Masonic law that prevails in South Carolina.

Brethren, do not ask me what is to be done, if a Lodge should reach that condition where no member has sufficient learning to fill the important offices of Master and Secretary. The answer is too plain. Let them take demits, surrender the charter, and affiliate with Lodges that have men of sufficient intelligence to properly perform the duties of these two important offices.

Most of our brethren have learned that more importance is placed on fingers and toes than heart and brains; they are learning that a whole-hearted man, with the first joint of his little toe of the left foot wanting, cannot be made a Mason, while a half-hearted man with five toes can be welcomed into our ranks, even though he have an unpolished brain also.

One other reason, my observation teaches me, is the material often taken in. We are strict, very strict, as to the physical qualifications, and sometimes look after the moral qualifications, but, my brethren, let me again quote that greatest Masonic jurist of the present century, Brother Mackey, in speaking of the qualifications of candidates on page 135, Ahiman Rezon:

'He must likewise have an estate, office, trade, occupation, or some visible way of acquiring an honest livelihood and working in his craft, as becomes the members of this ancient and honourable Fraternity. Freemasons must not only earn what is sufficient for themselves and families, but likewise something to spare for works of charity, and for supporting the ancient grandeur and dignity of the mystic Craft.' (Italics his.)

How often do we look into those prerequisites?

Let us in the future look as well into these qualifications as fingers and toes, and we will not have so many 'Dropped for N. P. D.'

I also find a tendency in many lodges to rush as many through the East as possible. This is wrong again. I know of many Lodges that were built up and kept flourishing by the efforts of one intelligent, energetic, true Mason, possessed of that rare qualification of a presiding officer—executive ability coupled with a judicial mind. When a Lodge is flourishing under a Master he should not be removed till a man is found who is, at least, as good an officer as himself. The office of Worshipful Master was never intended to confer honors upon men, but to benefit the Craft. He who benefits the Craft is honored by the title of P. M., but he who has passed through the chair and left the Lodge in a worse condition than he found it, is dishonored by having made himself ridiculous from incapacity, or undeserving for lack of qualifying himself when competent.

Some years ago a brother came to me and told me his Lodge had adopted a by-law providing that no W. M. should be re-eligible for office a second time. It told him they ought to have said the W. M. shall be re-elected from year to year till a better man can be found. When a man has been initiated, hold him back until he has mastered that degree. Let him be proficient in reality, not merely by the response of some brother. Hold him in each degree, it matters not how long it may require, till he becomes proficient, before allowing him to advance, and when raised urge upon him the necessity of studying the Ahiman Rezon, Mackey's Jurisprudence, the Digest and the Proceedings of each annual Communication, and especially the Report of the Grand Secretary on Foreign Correspondence. Teach the brother that Masonry is something more than signs and pass-words; encourage him to delve down into the science of morality, and he will there find so many beautiful, sparkling gems that he will bless the day he became a Mason, and will make a shining light in his Lodge.

Oftentimes the brethren are too eager to get through and get home if there are no degrees to be conferred. This should not be. Let some brother deliver an address, and if no brother feels like extempore speaking, let him read it. Read something. Turn back and read somebody's address delivered years ago. Many of them will always be new.

I notice year after year, Lodges submit amendments to their by-laws reducing their dues. This is another source of evil. Many seem to count nothing but a few dollars. They want to get Masonry too cheap. The tyler and secretary must be paid, and when this is done, Grand Lodge dues, lights and incidentals paid, nothing is left.

In my opinion the Grand Lodge erred when it amended the Constitution so as to allow each individual Lodge to fix its minimum dues. They are like children and do not know what is best for them.

Brethren what have you for charity? What have you to give to your deceased brothers' widows and orphans? Do you visit them?

Do you even visit your living brethren in their distress? Now let us come nearer together, let us practice Masonry outside of the Lodge as well as inside of it, especially remembering the 'widow and orphan in their distress,' which, after all, is the true religion, and is a part of true Masonry.

During the year I have received complaints of disputes arising from horse trading and other business transactions. Masons should be honest and true, remembering *never to wrong a brother out of the value of anything*, but what is horse swapping? Who wants to swap horses unless he is displeased with the one he has? I am afraid that there is evil on both sides of most of these horse swapping cases, and if brethren will resort to such practices they should keep their horse swapping difficulties out of the Lodge. One who will take advantage of his brother in a horse swapping trade violates his obligation, and is unworthy to be called a brother.

PHYSICAL QUALIFICATIONS.

I have had numerous applications for dispensations and to construe Article III as to physical qualifications. It is my duty to enforce the law as I find it, and our Grand Lodge has gone so far on this question of physical qualification that I think it is time we should amend our Constitution. I have had to rule out men with one eye, the loss of the first joint of the little finger of the left hand, a little toe of the left foot, the first joint of two or three toes of the left foot. Brethren, 'we learn to subdue the passions, act upon the square, keep a tongue of good report, maintain secrecy, and practice charity.' Can we not do all these things with one eye? What has fingers and toes of the left hand and feet to do with 'subduing our passions, acting upon the square, keeping a tongue of good report, and practicing charity.'

Article III says, the candidate 'must be upright in body, not deformed or dismembered at the time of making, but of hale and entire limbs, organs and members, as a man ought to be.' Up to the time I assumed the obligation of Grand Master, I felt a kind of pride in our rigid rule, but after the experience of one year, and having received the many inquiries as to the chances of men who were slightly maimed, who in every case were men of good moral standing, above the average in intelligence, and endowed with a competency, I have changed my mind. We are wrong. We have carried the construction of this Landmark too far.

What are 'members' and 'organs'? If we carry this to its logical conclusion men with cross-eyes, near-sighted men, bowlegged men, men with decayed teeth, with dyspepsia—why, brethren, even corns on their toes—would all be disqualified. 'The simple test is, 'ought a man to be so?' If not, then we must reject him.

Ought he to have corns ? Ought he to have cross-eyes ? Ought he to be near-sighted ? Ought his shoulders to stoop ? Is one leg longer than the other ? These are members and organs. The eye is the organ of sight and should not be crossed. No man should have myopia. The stomach is an organ. Who has a perfect one ?

Brethren, let us amend this article and let good, moral men, who can conform to all our ceremonies, and are otherwise qualified, come in. In 1891 one of our sister Grand Lodges elected as their Grand Master a man who was born with both feet badly deformed. I had the pleasure of meeting him in 1889 and a better Mason I have never seen. Had he lived in South Carolina he could never have been a Mason. Do not tell me that we are not progressive in anything. We progressed from an operative to a speculative science.

How did the Holy St. John get into our ceremonies if we are not progressive ? We are taught that our ancient brethren dedicated their Lodges to King Solomon, but we dedicate ours to the Holy St. John. Formerly there were no Lodges, only Grand Lodges.

The Royal Arch degree was conferred in Master Mason Lodges held in the city of Charleston within the present century. Masonry teaches us to seek for truth, let that search lead us whither it may, and when found, we must accept and embrace it, though to do so overturns all our pre-conceived ideas. The Holy Church persecuted Gallileo and executed Bernodino for teaching that the earth was round and moved. Here, in free America, the boasted land of liberty, and the refuge of the oppressed of all nations, poor, helpless innocent women were burned as witches. Who would dare do such things now ? Who would dare preach such doctrines to-day ?

Light, a glorious light, has dawned upon us since those dark days of horror and chased away the gloom of ignorance and superstition, and Masonry, the champion of truth, is always in the van marching on, embracing one truth after another as she discovers it, to glorify God; but, my brethren, we are being left behind. It is but the simple constructing of an ancient landmark, and we have placed a ridiculous construction upon it.

This jurisdiction adheres to "Perpetual Jurisdiction." Mark the following by the Grand Master.

"There is no doubt in my mind of the correctness of our position as to

PERPETUAL ALLEGIANCE.

When a profane applies and is blackballed he then becomes the material of that Lodge. That Lodge knows why the man was rejected, and it is wrong for another Lodge to thrust upon the Craft material believed by one Lodge to be unfit for the Temple.

It is a source of constant discord and annoyance.

A man was rejected in Georgia, moved to South Carolina and desired to apply to a Lodge here ; according to our construction of the law he could not. I advised the Lodge to communicate with the Georgia Lodge and urge them to receive his application. They refused, but in a very warm, fraternal resolution, waived all claim of jurisdiction over this material, and I advised the Lodge to receive his application. I could see no other way out of the dilemma ; we have our views, but we cannot force them upon Georgia. I trust that some amicable arrangements can be made that will be acceptable alike to all Grand Jurisdictions."

Decisions reported and adopted by Grand Lodge deal mainly with local law and are all very sound in their construction and practice.

Grand Master Sawyer concludes his very able address viz. :

"Masonry is founded on that which is eternal, perfect and unchangeable, friendship, morality, love and truth, and we are fortunate to be members of the ancient and honorable society that has withstood the shocks of centuries, the crash of kingdoms and empires, the ravages of wars, pestilence and all the enemies to mankind and liberty."

"Crowns have grown playthings since first we united,
 "Glory's frail fabric has fallen to naught;
 "Nations have risen like lamps newly lighted
 "And then in oppression's dark mantle been caught,
 "While like a sunny rill,
 "Silent, though gaining still,
 "Deeper and wider our influence is spread,
 "Drying the orphans' tears,
 "Soothing the widows' fears,
 "Strength to the weak, to the hungry, bread."

CLAUDE E. SAWYER,

Grand Master.

Returns show, 181 Chartered Lodges. Five Under Dispensation. Total Master Masons 5902.

Brother Chas. Inglesby, Grand Secretary, prepared the Report on Correspondence which received high compliments from both Grand Master and Grand Lodge.

British Columbia for 1894 is included and has very favorable fraternal notice.

I take this opportunity of expressing the pleasure it affords me to represent this venerable Grand Lodge and desire to convey my highest fraternal respect and best wishes for the welfare and prosperity of South Carolina Masonry.

M. W. BRO. CLAUDE E. SAWYER,

Grand Master, Aiken.

R. W. BRO. CHARLES INGLESBY,

Grand Secretary, Charleston.

120th Annual, Charleston, 8th December, 1896.

South Dakota

21ST ANNUAL—PIERRE—11TH JUNE, 1896.

Wm. C. Allen, M. W. Grand Master,

WHO reports that with few exceptions the Lodges are in a prosperous condition, and is pleased to be able to report a flattering increase in membership. "We are at peace with all our sister jurisdictions and harmony prevails between all Grand Lodges upon this continent."

Decisions reported are in harmony with the laws of the jurisdiction, involving no new points.

Grand Master Allen has expressed my views exactly in the following :

"In the jurisdiction of every Lodge a number of non-affiliated Masons are to be found. I am of the opinion that many of these brethren are prevented from seeking affiliation by reason of the fees required by many, if not all Lodges, of those asking admission. These brethren rightfully feel that they should not be forced to pay for the privilege of becoming contributing members. Believing that our membership will be largely increased thereby, I recommend that a By-Law be prepared permitting affiliation without fee."

Foreign Correspondence from the able pen of Bro. Wm. Blatt is given us in an attractive form, being bright and newsy. British Columbia for 1894 is included.

FREDERIC H. FILES,

M. W. Grand Master, Sioux Falls.

GEO. A. PETTIGREW,

R. W. Grand Secretary, Flandreau.

22nd Annual, Huron, 9th June, 1896.

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Tennessee

82ND ANNUAL—NASHVILLE—29 JANUARY, 1896.

M. W. George H. Morgan, Grand Master,

HIS opening remarks were :

"With a profound sense of gratitude to Almighty God for his protecting care and many blessings vouchsafed to us during our Masonic year now rapidly drawing to a close, I extend to you a

cordial fraternal greeting to this, the Eighty-second Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Tennessee. Organized a few months more than eighty-one years ago, by eight Lodges, chartered under the mother Grand Lodge of North Carolina, said Lodges representing an individual membership of less than two hundred, this august body has grown and expanded until now it numbers 430 Lodges within its Jurisdiction, with a membership approximating, if not a little in excess of, twenty thousand. During this period of Grand Lodge life, from the boundaries of Virginia and Kentucky on the north; Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia on the south; from the Blue Mountains and lovely valleys on the east to the Great Father of Waters on the west, Masonry has spread its benign influence among the people until to-day there is a Masonic Lodge in every county of Tennessee save one. During this period there have been in this Jurisdiction fifty-five Grand Masters. Of this number, thirty-six have crossed over the river to the Great Beyond, while nineteen remain on the nearer shore, not yet having finished the work allotted them by the Grand Master of the Universe."

Among the twenty official rulings I find of interest Nos.

1. "It is not improper for a Masonic Lodge to participate in the funeral procession of a Brother entitled to Masonic burial, with Knights of Pythias or other civic societies or military body to which he may have belonged, the Masonic ceremonies to be separate from that of other bodies, and such as prescribed in the Text Book. I take this view from what I conceive to be a proper construction of all of the law on the subject.

10. The rejection of a candidate for Masonry does not give the Lodge rejecting him perpetual jurisdiction over such candidate.

11. It is in the discretion of the Worshipful Master and Brethren whether or not visitors shall be permitted to remain in the Lodge when charges are to be read against a Brother. Visiting is a matter of grace and not of right, at any time."

Under the Grand Master's advice to Lodges I deem the following worthy of reprint for its noble sentiments and object lesson :

"One Worshipful Master wrote to this effect: 'We have in our Lodge an old Brother who was always a very zealous Mason, but he has become totally deaf. He was a regular attendant upon the Lodge meetings until he lost his hearing, since which he does not come so often. Has become so poor that he is unable to pay his dues. He wants to be in good standing when he dies, so he can have a Masonic burial. What shall we do with him?' I do not desire to report all that I said in reply. I wrote, however, in substance, the following, after looking to see the number of members in said Lodge: 'It will cost your members about one and a quarter cents a year each to pay the good old Brother's dues. Carry him on till he reaches the brink of the river and God will carry him safely over, and you will all feel better by even having given the good old Brother a cent and a quarter apiece for a short time. Bury his remains with Masonic honors when he dies, and in the sweet by-and-bye, when his hearing is restored to him in the Celestial Lodge above, where he can hear the voices of the angelic hosts, may he never hear that you asked the Grand Master the question: What shall we do with him? Go learn again the early taught lessons in Masonry, of brotherly love and relief.' Akin to this, was a question from another Lodge,

'What shall we do with a Brother who was in good standing and became deranged and is now in the insane asylum, and left no one to pay his dues?' I answered: 'In the name of charity, remit his lodge dues, and carry him on the Grand Lodge roll, and you will never die poorer for having done so.' I try to think that it was thoughtlessness in the Brethren of these Lodges to raise the question as to this poor old Brother's dues, as well as that of the insane Brother, and in charity withhold the names of the lodges asking the question, trusting that no such little-hearted stinginess will ever enter another Masonic Lodge, nor either of these again. Let us not forget always to meet our Brethren, whether rich or poor, upon the level.

'To meet upon the level
Is an easy thing to say,
But when it comes to practice,
Do we do it every day?
Do we meet him on the level.
If the Brother chance to be
Just a little out at elbow
Or baggy at the knee?

When we meet him in the workshop,
Do we greet him with the grip
That we do the noted statesman
On a European trip?
Do we meet him on the level
And give him just the chance
That we do the dashing fellow
With the creases in his pants?

If fortune does not smile on him
In sunshine and repose,
Do we meet him on the level
In his second-handed clothes?
Do we invite him to our church,
And seat him in our pew,
And warm our hearts by clasping hands
As Brothers ought to do?

Yes, we meet him on the level,
On the broad Masonic plan,
Whenever we know him to be
A mason and a man.
We'll meet him on the level,
And part upon the square,
And then perhaps he'll vouch for us
When we meet him over there.'

The Grand Tyler, Chas. L. Fuller, departed this life at his home in Nashville, on March 23, 1895.

"Faithful in every station of life, we sadly miss him. Though modest and unassuming in disposition, he was well known to those who usually attend the Grand Lodge, and none knew him but to esteem him.

While we mourn for the dead, we should remember that:

"There is no flock, however watched and tended,
But one dead lamb is there!
There is no fireside, howsoever defended,
But has one vacant chair!

Let us be patient! These severe afflictions
Not from the ground arise,
But oftentimes celestial benedictions
Assume this dark disguise.

We see but dimly through the mists and vapors,
Amid these earthly damps,
What seem to us but sad funeral tapers
May be Heaven's distant lamps.

*There is no death! What seems so is transition;
This life of mortal breath
Is but a suburb of the life elysian,
Whose portal we call death.*

I am pleased to see that Grand Master Morgan takes this sensible and charitable stand against "perpetual jurisdiction:

"In response to a request from J. H. C. Dill, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Illinois, I addressed a letter to M. W. Bro. L. A. Goddard Grand Master of said Grand Lodge, stating to him that according to Masonic law in Tennessee a Lodge rejecting a candidate for the Entered Apprentice Degree does not thereby obtain perpetual jurisdiction of said candidate. A contrary rule is certainly not in harm ny with the great Masonic idea of right and justice that should prevail under all circumstances. Under the perpetual jurisdiction idea, a young man for "sowing wild oats" might properly be rejected. Removing to a distant country, he grows into good citizenship and good Masonic material, but under this, to say the least of it, unreasonable rule, he is deprived of the privilege of becoming a Mason, because the Lodge that rejected him will *not waive* jurisdiction, only knowing him in the reputation he established in his youthful days."

Note the beautiful sentiments on

PEACE!

"How sacred the word! Whether considered in relation to fraternities like ours, to individuals, to States or to nations, it presents to humanity the same sweet benison. It carries with it the idea of happiness, contentment, joy, brotherly love, and human elevation.

War! its opposite, is the harbinger of woe, want, sorrow, the shedding of fraternal blood, and human degradation.

I would not invade the political domain nor assume the role of statesman. I would not call in question the wisdom and patriotism of those who have the management of the affairs of civil government in their hands, but I do not deem it improper to say that the great Masonic Fraternity is a Brotherhood of Peace, and in these times of turmoil and trouble, when the thoughtless, the hot-headed, the giddy and the ambitious talk flippantly of war, Masons should not hesitate to speak out for peace and 'the things that make for peace.'

If the two great English-speaking nations of the world, and the other powers between whom war is now threatened, should engage in deadly combat, after the thousands upon thousands have been slain, millions of treasure spent, cities sacked and destroyed, land and oceans drenched in blood, and widows and orphans made by hundreds—yea, by thousands, diplomacy will still have to step in and make treaties and settle the disputes. Let us have the diplomacy first, and let all honorable means be used to avert the dire calamity of war, with all of its untold horrors. Believing that the great Masonic heart of Tennessee beats in unison upon this subject and responds to the voice of God in the sentiment, 'on earth peace and good will to men,' I give utterance to these thoughts here, trusting that they may touch a responsive chord in the hearts of our Brethren everywhere in this country and beyond the seas, and aid in bringing about a peaceful settlement of the present differences, in a manner alike honorable to all. If these views meet your approbation, I sug-

gest that the Committee on Jurisprudence prepare and report a dispatch embodying the same, to be transmitted by wire throughout the world, that our fraternal Brotherhood everywhere may know where the Masons of Tennessee stand upon this momentous question."

CONCLUSION.

"It had occurred to us, Brethren, to conclude this report with a sketch of early Freemasonry in Tennessee, recalling the political and social conditions of a hundred years ago, the sharp party strife between Federal and Republican parties, and the bitter prejudices begotten of it; the Order of Cincinnati, founded by the officers of the Continental Army, and the rival organization of the Tammany Society; the ardent sympathy of the settlers on the Cumberland with the Republican cause, and their consequent petition that the first Lodge in the new State be chartered at Nashville by the name of 'St. Tammany,' No. 1, of Tennessee, which was granted on December 17th, 1796; how four years later the spirit of Freemasonry overcame political animosity, and our pioneer Brethren exchanged 'St. Tammany' for 'Harmony'; how it was succeeded by Cumberland Lodge, whose first raising under a Tennessee charter was our revered Brother Wilkins Tannehill, the greatest of our Masonic fathers in Tennessee—and much more of interest to the Masonic student. But we were restrained by the reflection that this was not matter for a Correspondence report, and so reserve it for some proper occasion.

Let it suffice now, in conclusion of this report, to note the chief movements and tendencies of Freemasonry as disclosed in the Proceedings and the Correspondence of other Grand Jurisdictions.

I. WASHINGTON MEMORIAL.

Colorado proposes that the Freemasons of the United States, by delegates from Grand Lodges, in the year 1899 unite in a Centennial Memorial of the death of the 'Father of his Country.' The proposition meets with general favor, and in that year Mount Vernon will witness one of the most notable Masonic meetings of this century. Such an occasion is worthy of the grandest efforts of Freemasonry!

II. FRATERNAL RELIEF.

Wisconsin proposes the adoption of a system of relief by all the Grand Lodges, whereby each Lodge shall be primarily responsible for all necessities furnished to any of its members in distress, and the Grand Lodge shall stand as surety therefor. This proposition has been unfavorably received, and has called out criticism and protest as unmasonic in essence and in tendency. It will be many years after the Washington celebration before this proposition is adopted.

III. PERPETUAL JURISDICTION.

Mississippi invites the Grand Lodges to unite with her in adopting a formal statement of true Masonic doctrine on this much mooted subject, and submits two propositions as equitable and necessary for uniformity.

The subject demands consideration, and the welfare of Freemasonry requires some accord upon it, or our peace and harmony will constantly be subject to disturbance. But the Mississippi proposition has been indorsed by very few Grand Lodges; while many have rejected it, others amended it, and yet others ignored entirely. Nor can Mississippi, Mississippi, anyone else, formulate a scheme that will meet with general approval on this subject. One-third of the Grand Lodges, including many of the

largest, cling tenaciously to the dogma of perpetual jurisdiction: Whoever petitions a Lodge for the degrees of Freemasonry, though rejected, forever afterward belongs to that Lodge, and can only make future advances toward the Fraternity with its consent. The remaining two-thirds reject this dogma, and assert their jurisdiction over all new material in their borders. These two repugnant doctrines, maintained with more or less tenacity by sister Grand Lodges, will constantly occasion discord, and may seriously disturb fraternal relations if left to their own natural tendencies and inevitable results. Much discussion has been tried by Grand Masters and Correspondents, with the usual result; each writer confirms himself and his Grand Body in the soundness of his or its position. What shall be done to promote peace and harmony?

A Masonic Congress or Convention seems the true solution. Let each Grand Master deputize a representative to meet at some central city—say Cincinnati—to discuss the subject, and, if possible, formulate a plan to recommend to their Grand Lodges for adoption. Such a congress could surely devise a feasible plan for the settlement of a difference which seriously threatens the peace of the Fraternity. Is the danger not sufficiently portentous to call for the effort?

IV. PROHIBITION LEGISLATION.

The saloon threatens the home, the family, the State. Freemasons are moving in many States for more strenuous regulation of the evil. In many States the saloon keeper is no longer eligible to admission, while in others tipping is a Masonic offense, punishable by suspension or expulsion. In others, no special regulations exist—the decision being that no new qualifications can be added to the requirements of the Ancient Regulations.

This subject is being greatly agitated, and is greatly agitating the Grand Lodges, and intemperance often characterizes the proceedings. The logical conclusion would seem to be that any Grand Lodge has the inherent power to declare a noxious occupation disreputable, and thus prevent the admission of a saloon keeper as not 'of good repute.' With Brethren following the occupation it is not so easy to deal. But Grand Lodges may admonish members by declaratory resolutions; and Subordinates may surely protect themselves by discipline, and it will not be long before the business will be so disreputable that we shall be free from it. Meanwhile the cardinal virtues of Prudence and Justice are needed to restrain the Prohibitionists from intemperance and excess. Let us not forget that we are Brethren.

V. PRINTED RITUALS.

An unaccountable mania for printing cipher rituals seized our members in certain States during the last decade, and still more unaccountably, Masons of intelligence and standing found such a course not inconsistent with Masonic obligation. They seemed to ignore the fact that what is ciphered may be deciphered. A prophet's eye was not needed to foretell the result of the experiment, and, of course, a pretty mess was made of it. Now repentance has expelled folly. But how much harm this plain violation of this primal obligation has effected, who can tell? 'What fools we mortals be!'

OFFICE SEEKING.

This nuisance ebbs and flows in the Grand Lodges; but on the whole, it may be said that the better spirit seems now to be in the ascendant, and the office is seeking the man, generally.

VII. MASONIC HOMES.

There is a decided movement all over our country towards organized charity. Many good Brethren of the old school still maintain that this is unmasonic, because not voluntary and individual, and therefore bad in tendency and in practice. But the prevailing idea is now that the epidemic excels the sporadic method, as a means of practical relief, and also that organized effort does not exclude or excuse individual dispensation. And so the Homes for widows and orphans and aged Masons are springing up all over the country, all substantial tokens that Freemasonry is not 'a sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal,' but that it is earnest and sincere in its lofty professions of brotherly love, relief, and charity! Lodges, and halls, and temples, even, we have in every city, and town, and village in this goodly land; but the truest, noblest, grandest proofs of the vital energy and elevating power of Freemasonry are the Masonic homes for the widow, the orphans, and the helpless! May they all succeed and prosper!

Finally, Brethren, we submit our gleanings from foreign fields with confidence that, however badly bound, the sheaves are full of good grain for nourishment; that as you partake of it, you will be strengthened for the daily duties Masonry calls upon you to perform and elevated in life and purpose, so that you may aid in the endless labor of uplifting mankind toward the lofty ideal of Freemasonry—the perfect man.

HENRY H. INGERSOLL,

Chairman."

The Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence submitted the following, which was adopted:—

"To all Ancient Free and Accepted Masons throughout the World—

Greeting:

The Grand Lodge of Tennessee, now sitting in Annual Communication in the city of Nashville, do send this, their fraternal greeting, to the Brethren of the Mystic Tie wheresoever dispersed, and sincerely hope and pray that the war clouds, which now seem hovering over the nations of the earth, will soon be dispersed, and the white wings of peace will again cast their lengthening shadows over the world.

To this end we urge upon every Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, meeting during the year 1896, to issue some fraternal sentiment favouring a peaceful termination of all international strife. Also that they use their great influence with the war-making and peace-keeping powers of the two worlds to exhaust all honorable and peaceful means to settle all contention before resort to arms.

War between nations means death and destruction and untold agonies, and we who believe in the 'Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man' cannot refrain from raising our voice in condemnation of the needless shedding of human blood.

Brethren, we greet you, and strike hands with you in bringing about a peaceful solution of impending dangers of war.

We ask that the Associated Press send this paper over their wires to all parts of the habitable globe where the touch of electricity is felt."

MASONIC RELIEF.

"The proposition of the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin in regard to the relief of traveling Brethren, though not approved by our Grand Master and not entirely acceptable to this committee, contains a statement of a Masonic duty, which, with proper qualifications, meets our approval.

We believe it to be the duty, primarily, of every lodge to care for its own members in distress, wherever they may be, so far as its Lodge means of relief will permit. And we recognize also a special duty on the Grand Lodge to aid its subordinates in caring for its worthy distressed members, as has been so nobly done by our sister of Nebraska. But we prefer and approve the declaration of the World's Masonic Congress, as follows:—

'Worthy Masons are entitled to relief from Brethren and Lodges wherever they may be found in need of relief, and the brethren of Lodges granting such aid are not entitled to demand reimbursement from the Lodges in which they hold their membership; but when a member of one Lodge is relieved by another, and the financial condition of his Lodge is such as to permit, common courtesy and duty alike demand that it should reimburse a poorer Lodge relieving its members.'

Returns show 17,766 Master Masons.

Report on Correspondence is by Bros. Walton and Ingersoll.

British Columbia for 1894 is reviewed.

M. W. PHILIP N. MATLOCK,
Grand Master, Kenton.

R. W. JOHN B. GARRETT,
Grand Secretary, Nashville.

83rd Annual, Nashville, 27th January, 1897.

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Texas

60TH ANNUAL—HOUSTON—3RD DECEMBER, 1895.

M. W. Gus Garrison, Grand Master.

OUR Representative T. H. Haynie at his post as usual.
The Grand Master was pleased to report:

"Temporarily, we are perhaps poorer than ever before. The close, hard, financial condition of the country has made its impress upon all; yet we are richer in experience and wiser in that which is best for us than we have ever been.

Although the hard and stringent financial condition of the country has made its impress upon all the institutions of the country, yet we can say with gratification that Masonry still prospers in the Lone Star State. Not that it has, in the year just past, made those wonderful strides in progress that have compelled the admiration of the world, yet, with steady step, it has marched forward, onward, upward. Of one thing we are assured, that the standard of Masonry is being gradually elevated. Slowly but surely, the disciples of the square and compass are tending to a full realization of the fact that the success of Masonry depends upon its high standard of morality, and that the low, the vile and the immoral have no place in our ranks.

From every portion of the State come words of good cheer. We are slowly but surely prospering. We are taking hold of a permanent and lasting prosperity that, if rightly divined, will insure to our posterity all that has ever been contemplated by the most sanguine of our supporters."

Sixteen corner-stones and thirty Public Institutions are noted—quite a "boom."

FOREIGN RELATIONS.

The Grand Lodge of Texas has enjoyed the most pleasant relations with all other grand bodies with whom we are in fraternal correspondence. Nothing has occurred in any way to mar the long continued fraternity of feeling that has characterized Masonry through all the years

Eleven decisions are reported, all very liberal, but none which I deem necessary to reproduce.

The Committee on Correspondence reported on the "Mississippi Rules," and was adopted by Grand Lodge.

"To the subject has been given such consideration as its importance demands, and your Committee beg leave to report that it believes that this is a move in the right direction.

The question of jurisdiction over candidates, both of applicants for the benefits of Masonry and also those who have been rejected, has caused and is causing more friction between Grand Lodges than all other questions combined, and it would be the best thing possible for the general peace of the Craft if some solution of the subject could be reached which would be satisfactory to all concerned.

Your Committee does not regard the rules proposed by the M. W. Grand Lodge of Mississippi as such a solution, nor does it believe that it will be at all generally received as such.

In fact, with some two or perhaps three exceptions, they have already been rejected by all the Grand Lodges which have spoken upon the subject.

Rule 1 is mainly objectionable, and cannot be concurred in because, if for no other reason than that its effect would do away with or destroy the secrecy of the ballot. Without investigating the ballot and endeavoring to find out who cast the black ball or balls, it would be impossible for the rejecting Lodge 'to furnish to the Lodge to which said petition is made the grounds upon which the rejection was made.' It may be

said, too, that the secrecy of the ballot is a landmark, and any attempt to penetrate that secrecy would be an innovation upon the body of Masonry ; and, moreover, Edict No. 136 of this Grand Lodge makes any such attempt a Masonic offense.

To Rule 2 your Committee can see no serious objection if the first proviso be left off and it could be agreed upon by all the Grand Lodges.

Your Committee is of the opinion that the best solution of the matter and the one upon which there is the greatest probability of a general agreement among the Grand Lodges, would be the fixing of a certain time, after the lapse of which jurisdiction over rejected applicants should cease by limitation. Your Committee believes that it is possible for a man to reform and mend his ways. That a man may at one time be unfit for admittance into the portals of the Temple, but that afterwards he may repent and so change as to become good material. But your Committee also believes that after such profession of change is made there should be a probationary period of a length sufficient to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that such reform is sincere and real.

Many of the Grand Lodges of the United States and Canada have already adopted such a rule as is here indicated, the length of time during which the jurisdiction obtains varying in the several Grand jurisdictions, though five or seven years seem to be the period most generally adopted.

Holding these views and believing that it will be for the best interests and inure to the peace and harmony of the general Craft, your Committee respectfully recommends the adoption of the following :

Resolved, (1) That, after the period of five years shall have elapsed since the rejection of an applicant for the degrees of Masonry, he having moved into the jurisdiction of another Lodge either in this or any other Grand jurisdiction, and having applied for the degrees, then the Lodge applied to shall correspond with the rejecting Lodge as to the former standing and character of the applicant, and if upon the information so obtained he be deemed worthy, the Lodge may proceed in the case without further reference to the action of the rejecting Lodge.

Resolved, (2) That a Lodge in this Grand jurisdiction may give at its option, by unanimous vote, a certificate to one of its Entered Apprentices or Fellow Crafts about to move into the jurisdiction of another Lodge, dismissing and recommending him for advancement, and that upon the issuance of such certificate his name shall be dropped from the roll of the Lodge thus dismissing him, the Lodge thereby losing further jurisdiction over him.

Resolved, (3) That all resolutions and edicts in conflict herewith be and that the same are hereby repealed.

Report on Fraternal Correspondence is by Bro. Thos. M. Matthews. British Columbia not appearing we infer our Proceedings did not reach in time.

The Report is well prepared ; not only in its matter, but also in the styles of opinions, very courteously expressed. A very interesting history of "Freemasonry in Mexico" is an "Addendum." This "Gran Dieta" has been recognized

by Texas, and being very close neighbors they (Texas) should know the condition of Masonry there in all its phases. Bro. Matthews concludes his resume with the following :

"Ever since the recognition of the Gran Dieta by the Grand Lodge of Texas, up to about August 10 last, Bro. Parvin has been condemning, criticising and belaboring it for recognizing an 'irregular,' 'illegitimate,' 'spurious,' 'bastard,' 'clandestine body.' And yet *mirabile dictu*, we find that he himself has been visiting this same body, and associating with its members as Masons, and says he 'would do so again were he to go there.' Why? We have too much respect for Bro. Parvin to believe for a moment that he would visit a Lodge of which he even had a suspicion that it was clandestine. When formerly writing of this matter he honestly believed that the Masonry of Mexico was 'irregular,' 'illegitimate,' and therefore 'clandestine,' and as in duty bound so contended. But later, by personal observation he found it was not so, that '*they were legitimate by their law*' and that '*by their law and their law only can we judge them.*' Trying them by that test he found out as we all along have contended that they were not illegitimate, irregular or clandestine, and do deserve recognition, and thus finding, he personally recognized them.

Bro. Parvin did exactly right, just what the pure, honest Mason that he is should have done, and while it is possible, though we much question if probable, he may not have so intended, he certainly, as we think, makes one of the strongest possible arguments for the recognition of the Gran Dieta and its subordinates, by all true Masons everywhere. As said, he did just exactly right in visiting the Mexican Lodges, and now to be consistent he should do everything in his power to undo and correct the harm that in the past he has done to our Mexican Brethren, and openly and boldly urge his Grand Lodge to recognize them. We have now, as far as we are able, made good our promise, so frequently repeated in our foregoing report. We believe in all honesty we have proved that the Masonry in Mexico deserves recognition—that it is pure in its works, its professions, and its principles, and we know, too, that by its benign and healthful influence it is to-day doing more, far more, to elevate, refine and set free a long priest-ridden people, than all other forces combined. In view of these facts, let us, Brethren, one and all, extend a welcoming and a helping hand, and bid it God speed in its 'noble and glorious undertaking.'"

M. W. B. R. ABERNETHY,
Grand Master.

R. W. JOHN WATSON,
Grand Secretary, Houston.

61st Annual, Houston, 1st December, 1896.

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Vermont

102ND ANNUAL—BURLINGTON—12TH JUNE, 1895.

M. W. John H. Whipple, Grand Master.

⑧UR Representative not recorded present. The Grand Master reported 8 decisions, all, I judge, within their immediate laws, and eliciting no new point.

I quite agree with Bro. Whipple in what he says concerning the ornamental

GRAND REPRESENTATIVES.

"A number of nominations have been made to fill vacancies where commissions have expired during the year, and several Grand Lodges have withdrawn all their Grand Representatives. The names will be found in the report of the Grand Secretary. For myself, while I recognize the fact that Grand Representatives are often only ornamental, I believe they stand, if only on paper, to testify to the fraternal spirit which obtains among the Grand Jurisdictions and the catholicity of our Order."

STATE OF THE ORDER.

"The statistics for the year show a gratifying increase in membership, a sound and conservative policy in accepting propositions, and a salutary observance of discipline, rules and regulations, while peace and harmony prevail throughout the jurisdiction.

With our Sister Grand Jurisdictions our relations continue as ever, fraternal and friendly. No discordant sound disturbs the peace, and everywhere our banners float to the breeze with the true inscription, 'Peace—good will.'"

Vermont is about to erect a new Temple to cost \$50,000 at the City of Burlington.

MASONIC RELIEF.

"Upon the question of Masonic Relief, the position of this Grand Lodge was defined by P.G.M. Bowman in 1876, that 'Charity in all cases must be voluntary, not compulsory. While it is a Masonic duty, the Lodge or brother bestowing it must be the judge of that duty.' Upon this question we adopt the language of the Finance Committee of the Grand Lodge of Kentucky, which seems to us to be the true doctrine, viz:—

Your Committee are of the opinion that the obligation to afford relief is only limited by the Masonic standing of the brother applying for aid, and is not a matter of Lodge membership. It is obligatory upon all Masons everywhere to supply the wants of a needy brother without regard to the Lodge to which he may be specially allied as a member. He is first and above all a member of the Fraternity, and entitled to be recognized and hospitably treated as a member of the great Masonic family. Modern inventions have brought the organized membership into close and familiar converse, and it is an easy matter to communicate with the Lodge of which the brother is a member, and ascertain its ability and readiness to contribute.

Your Committee coincide with the opinion expressed by the Masonic Congress, held in Chicago, 'that the brethren of Lodges granting such aid are not entitled to demand reimbursement from the Lodges in which the beneficiaries hold membership, but that when a member of one Lodge is relieved by another, and the financial situation of his Lodge is such as to permit, common courtesy and duty alike demand that it should reimburse a poorer Lodge relieving its members.'"

Report on Foreign Correspondence is by P. G. M. Bro. Marsh O. Perkins, who is one of the able writers under this head, presenting a very valuable record for his Grand Lodge, and instruction to his brother reporters.

British Columbia for 1894 is thoroughly reviewed.

M. W. KITTREDGE HASKINS,
Grand Master, Brattleboro.

R. W. WARREN G. REYNOLDS,
Grand Secretary, Burlington.

103rd Annual, Burlington, June 10th and 11th, 1896.

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Utah

25TH ANNUAL—SALT LAKE—21ST JANUARY, 1896.

M. W. Charles Emerson, Grand Master.

⑨ UR Representative not recorded present. The Grand Master reported the

"CONDITION OF THE CRAFT."

"It has been said that Masonry runs in lines parallel with the condition of the country in which it exists. This may be reasonably true regarding some localities. The affairs of men undoubtedly influence, in a more or less degree, all things created by man, and the condition of the Craft in Utah has, perhaps, in some measure, been affected by the general depression.

But the men of the Great West have a happy faculty of rising above the conditions that seemingly hinder the progress of those in 'more enlightened' regions, and believe that their greatest glory is in rising quickly after every fall, whether enforced or self-afflicted. That this is true, is proven by the fact that the material prosperity of the denizens of this 'un-enlightened' region compares most favorably with that of the people of any other section, and, that in spite of the fact that one of our most vital and remunerative industries has had the life so effectually crushed out of it that our people were seemingly completely stunned, yet have they raised themselves above these conditions and have proved that Utah has been a paradise for rich and poor alike, as compared with other sections of our country.

Thus Masonry in Utah, upheld by this class of men, despite the fact that conditions have not materially changed during the past three years at least, has grown steadily and healthily the past year, and the gain in numbers and kind of material has been great in comparison.

I am pleased to report that peace and harmony prevail among all our Brethren and among the Lodges. The zeal evinced by the members of the Craft is beyond praise, and they are entitled to our highest commendation for the manner in which they have accomplished this work. The officers of the constituent lodges have studiously endeavored to perfect themselves in a uniformity of work, thus meeting the requirements of this Grand Lodge. It is a pleasure to report their faithful work and the splendid results achieved.

The social features have been given a prominence truly commendable, and it has been a veritable pleasure to attend on such occasions. I desire to especially commend the promptness and ability which the Brethren display at these times of festivity in their speeches and remarks which have done so much to make these meetings enjoyable and instructive. This should be encouraged by all means.

' Let us see the old faces beam in the old place ;
Let us taste the old dishes, and wish the old wishes ;
Let us sing the old songs and forget the old wrongs.'

Some of our Subordinate Lodges still adhere to their plan of keeping away from Lodge banquets all intoxicating beverages. All praise be given them. The inflexible, invariable rule, should be, among all the Lodges in this Grand Jurisdiction, to never permit the use of intoxicating drinks of any kind or character in or about the Lodge room, or at any Masonic banquet or spread.

To permit this is subversive of the great principles and teachings of Masonry ; it is wrong in every sense of the term. It is a pollution of our sacred altar to thus place a temptation before a Brother who has been sworn before that same altar to discountenance and avoid such unnecessary excess. We obligate ourselves at the altar to protect the widows and the fatherless, and the honor and characters of each other ; yet if these things are permitted, the defenceless and the dishonored may hurl back our words, and say that at the very foot of the altar did we permit the temptation and countenance the indulgence.

There is no middle path to be pursued in this matter. There can be no temporizing with this potent spirit of evil, and I sincerely trust that never again will it be said of any Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction that it permitted the use of or indulgence in any spirituous or intoxicating liquors at its festal board."

We commend the remarks on the "social features."

FRATERNAL RELATIONS.

"The same friendly and Fraternal relations that have long existed between this Grand Lodge and those of other Jurisdictions still continue. To the zeal and fidelity of the Grand Secretary, Bro. Diehl, is this largely to be attributed. In the correspondence between this and other Grand Lodges never does the Grand Lodge of Utah suffer at his hands. His watchful care keeps the lamp well filled and the light brightly burning."

We note this decision :

Question. Has a Brother who visits a Lodge where he is unknown, and where he must be examined before being admitted, the right to demand that he be shown the Charter or Warrant of such Lodge ?

Answer. No. A Brother takes no more chances than does a Lodge ; but if there is any doubt in either or both cases it should be resolved in favor of the Lodge rather than the individual. If a Brother is satisfied

that the Lodge is legally constituted, then a demand for the Charter is discourteous and indelicate, and subjects the Lodge to the humiliation of having its Charter and actions questioned, and the Brother constitutes himself a judge against the present evidence of all the surroundings and the *prima facie* evidence of the Charter itself (should he be permitted to inspect that instrument), and his judgment or opinion then expressed would not alter or change anything. If he is not satisfied before he applies for admission he will, rather than do violence to his own feelings and his obligations, remain away until he can obtain satisfactory information one way or the other.

Our R. W. Grand Lecturer informs me that never at any time has the Board of Custodians required it of him, nor has he given such instruction to a candidate in any lecture.

The Grand Lodge of New Zealand was accorded Fraternal recognition.

Report on Correspondence for the twentieth time is by the Grand Secretary, Bro. Diehl. British Columbia for 1895 have more than favorable comment.

Thanks, Bro. Diehl, for the information: "Happy to meet—Sorry to part—Happy to meet again."

DR. WM. T. DALBY,

Grand Master, Salt Lake City.

R. W. CHRISTOPHER DIEHL,

Grand Secretary.

26th Annual, Salt Lake City, 19th January, 1897.

—:o:—

Victoria

AT the "Grand Anniversary Festival Meeting," in May, 1895, the Grand Master, Sir William J. Clarke, Bart., opened the Grand Lodge. After the reading of that portion of the previous meeting relating to the election, the Brother retired, and the Throne was occupied by Past Grand Master George S. Coppin, who received the Grand Master-elect, addressed him. Prayer was offered by the Grand Chaplain, followed by obligating, investing and proclaiming.

The Quarterly was held in June, 1895, presided over by Bro. Sir. William J. Clarke, and a large number of present and Past Officers and the Representatives of ninety-three Lodges.

Certain Past Masters were involved in difficulty from the non-payment of dues by the Subordinates to which they were attached, while they had individually paid their Grand Lodge fees into said Lodges. Agreeable with the Regulations, these brethren were excluded from taking any part in the proceedings.

From the summoning of a brother-member of one of the subordinates, who had been convicted of a misdemeanor, to attend the next meeting of the Grand Lodge, to show cause why he should not be expelled, it is presumed that subordinates do not have the authority to discipline.

A circular was prepared condemning innovations that had been introduced in "the opening and closing of the Board of Installed Masters, and the wearing of unauthorized jewels."

The various statement of account bear the endorsement of a special officer, the "Incorporated Accountant" "A hearty vote of thanks was recorded on the minutes of the Grand Lodge to Bro. Angel Ellis, for the work performed by him during the time he has held the office of Grand Treasurer."

An election for the office of Auditor was taken ; there being two nomination, the Grand Master ordered the procedure by "show of hands, and put them to the Grand Lodge in alphabetical order."

The Grand Master announced that he had conferred Past Grand rank on twenty brethren.

BRO. SIR WILLIAM J. CLARKE,
Grand Master.

BRO. JOHN BRAIM,
Grand Secretary.

Virginia

118TH ANNUAL—RICHMOND—3RD DECEMBER, 1895.

M. W. J. P. Fitzgerald, Grand Master.

OUR Representative not present. On the 9th June, 1895, the Grand Secretary, R. W. Bro. William B. Isaacs died. The Grand Master pays him a well earned tribute. He also reported "Fraternal relations between this and other Grand Jurisdictions continue to be cordial and fraternal."

On "Perpetual Jurisdiction" the Grand Master places himself on record viz. :—

"An inquiry came from the Grand Master of Illinois, desiring information as to our views upon the question of perpetual jurisdiction over rejected candidates for initiation into the mysteries of Freemasonry. I replied that I had not been able to discover that the Grand Lodge of Virginia had ever made a deliverance upon the subject, or, that a Grand Master had ever been called upon to decide a case in point.

I gave him succinctly the provisions of the Methodical Digest regarding qualifications of candidates for initiation, and what the petition for initiation must state, and informed him that if it should appear that a petitioner to one of the Lodges in Virginia had been rejected by a Lodge in another jurisdiction, and the case was referred to me for instruction, I should order that action be deferred until by correspondence through the office of the Grand Secretary, information could be obtained from the Lodge which had rejected, of the cause thereof, and the moral qualifications of the petitioner when he resided within its jurisdiction, and that when such information was obtained I would determine whether I would permit the Lodge in Virginia to entertain the petition. I further informed him, that I do not and cannot approve the doctrine that a profane rejected by a Lodge in one jurisdiction is *ipso facto* deprived of the privilege of obtaining the rights and benefits of Masonry in another, except and until the consent of the subordinate Lodge which rejected him has been obtained. To sanction any other view and to act thereon, might, in my opinion, without just cause, deprive some worthy men who have cast their lots in with us, of the great and important privilege of being a Mason. I also maintain that each subordinate Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction is the sole judge of the qualification of profanes residing within its territory, to receive the rights and benefits of Masonry, and that Masonic comity does not require that a veto upon the exercise of that right shall be lodged in another subordinate Lodge outside of this jurisdiction.

I have noted with pleasure that in his address to the Grand Lodge of Illinois, the Grand Master states that out of forty-five responses received to his inquiry, sixteen Grand Lodges recognize the law of perpetual jurisdiction and twenty-nine do not."

The Committee on the Address reported on this question viz : and which was adopted.

"The Grand Master does not recognize as valid any claim of a Lodge of perpetual jurisdiction over rejected profanes. In this, his views are in full conformity to what we regard as the established Masonic law of Virginia, and we entirely approve the action of the Grand Master and the reasons assigned by him for it. We deplore the ignorance of the laws of this Grand Lodge and of Masonic propriety on the part of a brother of one of our subordinate Lodges which led to the communications from the Grand Masters of Nebraska and Wisconsin reported by the Grand Master. His action in the matter seems to us to have been eminently wise, and while pronouncedly firm in its vindication of the violated law, it was tempered with that discreet charity which is so characteristic of the tenets of our order and of the sound head and good heart of our Grand Master."

Decisions reported are of local interest only.

CONCLUSION.

"Brethren, I have taxed your patience and consumed your time more than I ought to have done. My love for Masonry I plead as my excuse. I love her for the truths she teaches ; I love her for the ties with which she binds me to my fellow-men ; I love her for her antiquity ; I love her because she is the one institution which in her forms, her ceremonies, and her tenets, changes not, and because in all these respects, of all human institutions, she most resembles her heaven-born mistress, whom as an handmaid she follows.

From the far off east, where our Mysteries had their birth, there comes the legend that Abou Ben Adhem awoke one night from a deep dream of peace, and saw, within the moonlight of his room, making it rich and like a lily in its bloom, an angel writing in a book of gold. He asked, 'What writest thou?' And the angel answered, 'The names of those who love the Lord.' 'Is my name there?' he asked. 'Nay!' replied the angel. 'Then Abou softly and cheerily said, 'I pray thee, then, write me as one who loves his fellow-men.' The vision vanished. The next night it came again—

'And showed the names whom love of God had blessed,
And lo! Ben Adhem's name led all the rest.'

Brethren, it is my wish, my prayer, that when you awake from that sleep called death, you shall find that the recording angel has written your names in the Golden Book of God's remembrance."

There is no Report on Foreign Correspondence, but a Committee was appointed who, no doubt, will make a showing at the next Communication.

As we are a member of the General Masonic Relief Association of the United States and Canada, we extract the following Report, with thanks :—

REPORT OF REPRESENTATIVE TO G. M. R. ASSOCIATION OF UNITED STATES.

"Rt. Wor. L. T. Christian, Representative to the General Masonic Relief Association of the United States and Canada, submitted the following report:—

'As the representative from this Grand Jurisdiction to the biennial meeting of the General Masonic Relief Association of the United States and Canada, held in the City of New York, September 10 and 11, 1895, I beg to report the Association at the highest degree of perfection yet attained, but leaving much to be accomplished, which, with a united effort on the part of the several Grand Lodges is possible in the near future.

There is no appropriation made by this Grand Lodge which has yielded such fruitful returns as your annual membership of \$50.00 to this Association. By your membership each Lodge in Virginia is entitled to the warning circulars published by the Association, thereby warning the Lodges against the vast army of imposters, both male and female, who live at the expense of the Craft. Where Boards of Relief exist, the circulars are sent them, as the item of postage must be watched.

One thousand six hundred and eighty-eight unworthy applicants have been detected and published during the brief existence of the Association.

The following Grand Lodges hold membership: Arizona, British Columbia, Canada Ontario, Canada Quebec, Delaware, District of Columbia, Idaho, Manitoba, Maryland, Massachusetts, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Nova Scotia, Ohio, Oregon, Prince Edward Island, Utah, Virginia.

There are ninety-one Boards of Relief, members of the Association, located in States whose Grand Lodge have not affiliated with the Association. Their membership is highly esteemed, as it saves them from frequent imposters.

Following is the location of the several Boards which have sent our Secretary the address of their office, which, no doubt, will be of service to the Lodges in this State:—

BOARDS OF RELIEF.

Albany, N. Y.—Secretary, S. Goldring, 18 N. Pearl Street.

Alexandria, Va.—Secretary, Edgar Warfield; Business, 300 Princess Street; Private, 218 S. Fairfax Street.

Auburn, N. Y.—Secretary, Jas. H. Hoskins, 50 State Street.

Baltimore, Md.—President, D. F. Pennington, 221 N. Liberty St.

Belville (Ont.) Can.—Secretary, Wm. Smeaton, P.O. Box, No. 807.

Binghampton, N. Y.—President, W. W. Babcock, Masonic Hall.

Buffalo, N. Y.—President Chas. F. Sturm, 200 Genesee Street.

Charleston, S. C.—Secretary, A. E. Gough, Masonic Temple.

Cincinnati, O.—Secretary, C. L. Lippert, Cor. Court and Main Sts.

Concord, N. H.—Secretary, Geo. P. Cleaves, 3 N. Main Street.

Denver, Col.—Secretary, J. C. Johnston, Masonic Temple.

Indianapolis, Ind.—Secretary, Rev. Willis D. Engle, 91 East Market Street.

- Lockport, N. Y.—Secretary, Horace H. Servoss.
 London (Ont.) Can.—Secretary, R. B. Hungerford, 22 King Street.
 Louisville, Ky.—Secretary, H. R. Mitchell, Masonic Temple.
 Meadville, Pa.—Secretary, E. T. Hoffman, 7 Atlantic Avenue.
 Memphis, Tenn.—Secretary, J. F. Sellers, Masonic Temple.
 Milwaukee, Wis.—Secretary, W. N. Pennell, 133 W. Water Street.
 Minneapolis, Minn. — Secretary, B. L. Perry, 5 and 6 Lumber Exchange.
 Montreal, Can.—Secretary, George H. Wray, P.O. Box No. 752.
 Nashville, Tenn.—Secretary, B. A. Phillips, 164 Union Street.
 New Albany, Ind.—President, W. E. Grove, New Albany, Ind.
 Newark, O.—Secretary, S. Stacker Williams, Newark, O.
 New Orleans, La.—Secretary, Richard Lambert, Masonic Temple.
 New York City—Secretary, Wm. Delamater, 300 Mulberry Street.
 Norfolk, Va.—Secretary, James J. Johnson, Masonic Temple.
 Oakland, Cal.—Secretary, J. J. Warner, 972 Broadway.
 Omaha, Neb.—Secretary, Jno. W. Westburg, 1608 Capitol Avenue.
 Portland, Me.—Secretary, Warren O. Carney, Portland, Me.
 Richmond, Va.—President L. T. Christian, 1012 E. Broad Street.
 Sadalia, Mo.—Secretary, Jno. Wamsley, 223 Ohio Street.
 Springfield, Mo.—Secretary J. M. Clyde, Springfield, Mo.
 St. John, N. B.—Secretary, J. A. Watson, 30 Dock Street.
 St. Joseph, Mo.—Secretary, E. F. Hartzel, 122 S. Fourth Street.
 St. Louis, Mo.—President, Martin Collins; Secretary, Eden Reed, 8123 Magazine Street.
 Syracuse, N. Y.—Secretary, S. D. Solomon, 1 Empire Block.
 Tacoma, Wash.—Secretary, H. F. Norris, 815 California Block.
 Toronto, Can.—Secretary, Alex. Paterson, 24 Toronto, Arcade.
 Troy, N. Y.—Secretary, E. W. Loth, 88 Congress Street.
 Washington, D. C.—Secretary, Lurtin R. Ginn, 1219 M St. N. W.
 Williamsburg, N. Y.—Secretary, T. A. Powell, 145 Oakland Street, Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Wilmington, Del.—Secretary, Roscoe F. Baylis, P. W. & B. R. R. Depot.
 Windsor (Ont.) Can.—Secretary, E. S. Wagle, Winsor, Can.
 Worcester, Mass.—Secretary, A. H. Burton, P.O. Box 514.

OFFICERS.

President—L. Cabell Williamson, 478 Louisville Avenue, Washington, D. C.

First Vice-President—D. F. Pennington, 221 N. Liberty Street, Baltimore, Md.

Second Vice-President—R. B. Hungerford, 22 King Street, London, Ont.

Secretary—John R. Pope, 224 East 25th Street, New York City.

Treasurer—William Delamater, 300 Mulberry Street, New York City.

Advisory Board—Thomas Moore, New York; T. John Newton, Washington, D. C.; James Fyfe, Montreal, Can.; L. T. Christian, Richmond, Va.; C. W. Baker, Omaha, Neb.

The General Association earnestly desires that you make diligent inquiry if possible, before assisting transients; use the telegraph freely, and in every instance report the case at once to the General Secretary. You will find eight-tenths of them imposters.

If case is suspicious, gather up all papers, etc., purporting to be Masonic, until the applicant proves himself, or herself, to be worthy. Give these applicants nothing with your address thereon. Masonic examinations are practically unnecessary, as the professional is well posted. Satisfy yourself especially on the line of affiliation. Care should be taken in permitting applicants for relief to visit your Lodge, as their visits are for the purpose of Masonic information, and forming the acquaintance of the brethren. Have a relief committee in your Lodge, or organize a relief board where more than one Lodge is located in a town, to whom all cases for relief should be referred. Your committee will soon become familiar with the miraculous escape from the shipwreck; or the widow's pathetic story of her only support sacrificing his life on the altar of his country.

Record should be kept of all cases applying. Where relief is given do no more than is necessary. Begging is encouraged in some sections by liberal donations.

The tender and affectionate regards so modestly yet appropriately expressed by the Association for one who served this Grand Lodge so long and so well, is worthy of especial mention. Rt. Wor. Bro. W. B. Isaacs assisted in organizing the General Association, cherishing its development with peculiar interest and characteristic zeal.

Hoping this Grand Lodge may be well represented at the next meeting of Association,

Faternally yours,

L. T. CHRISTIAN."

Returns show 252 Lodges with 12,572 Masons.

M. W. J. P. FITZGERALD, (re-elected)

Grand Master, Farmville.

R. W. GEO. W. CARRINGTON,

Grand Secretary, Richmond.

Washington

38TH ANNUAL—OLYMPIA—11TH JUNE 1895.

M. W. Joseph Marion Taylor, Grand Master.

THIS Grand Lodge opens on the Third Degree of Masonry in *Ample Form*. The Grand Master opened his address with a beautiful tribute to Masons and Masonry in Washington. He says: "The auspices are most favorable and encouraging. Peace and harmony prevail throughout the Jurisdiction. Our relations with all Sister Jurisdictions are most pleasant."

Among the 40 Decisions reported, I find the following:

9. "Could you kindly arrange with the Grand Master of the Jurisdiction of British Columbia to allow applicants who live just across the line in British Columbia to affiliate and join this Lodge, which would save them going to New Westminster. There are some holding dimits and other good men who would like to become Masons, but say it is too far to go to New Westminster. If you could bring about such a condition where brethren and applicants could join here, it would be for the good of Masonry and these brethren in particular.

Answer. After giving your question in regard to the waiver of jurisdiction over applicants residing in British Columbia most careful consideration, I must say that I doubt whether a *general* waiver would be *practical* or *advisable*. Such a course might lead to confusion and unpleasant relations between the two Grand Jurisdictions. The Territorial limits of Masonic Jurisdictions should be clearly defined, and confined as they are at present to the political limits of states and provinces, therefore I would advise Lodges within this Grand Jurisdiction not to seek material for Masonry among residents of another Grand Jurisdiction, except in extreme cases where it may be clearly shown that the applicant would be greatly discommoded by applying to a Lodge under the Grand Jurisdiction in which he lives, on account of distance or geographical barriers, and then only for these reasons. Each individual case should be tested on its own merits. A general waiver would, in my opinion, lead to endless confusion."

We think this is quite proper, and the point is well taken.

I note that the "Past Masters Degree" has been abolished in Washington.

The decisions appear to be in harmony with the laws of the Jurisdiction and are very clearly given by the Grand Master.

The address of M. W. Bro. Taylor is so full of *good things*, that it would be spoiled by taking extracts.

He concludes, viz :

"And now, in returning to you the emblem of authority entrusted to my care one year ago, the best advice I can leave with you, my Brethren, is that given by the noble Festus :

'One generous feeling—one great thought—one deed
Of good, ere night, would make life longer seem.
Than if each year might number a thousand days,—
Spent as is this by nations of mankind.
We live in deeds, not years ; in thoughts, not breaths ;
In feelings, not in figures on a dial.
We should count time by heart-throbs. He most lives
Who thinks most—feels the noblest—acts the best.'

R. W Bro. Wm. Hupton delivered an address "Some phases of Freemasonry," such only as a student of his class could formulate, and wish every Brother of this Jurisdiction (British Columbia) could have an opportunity of reading it.

Returns show 4,959 Master Masons.

Report on Masonic Correspondence is by Wm. H. Upton, P. M., which is as full of "Masonic Light" as a nut is full of meat, and which makes me sink into insignificance. However, we cannot all be "Masonic Students."

British Columbia for 1894 has favorable review.

The Proceedings of Washington are, on the whole, most creditable, and a very valuable addition to any Masonic Library.

M. W. WM. W. WEATHERSPOON,
Grand Master, Spokane.

R. W. THOMAS MILBURNE REED,
Grand Secretary, Olympia.

39th Annual, Seattle, 9th June, 1896.

—:O:—

West Virginia

31ST ANNUAL—CHARLESTON—12TH NOVEMBER, 1895.

M. W. G. W. Feidt, Grand Master.

AMONGST the decisions of the Grand Master I find these bearing on "Physical Perfection"

"A profane may be made a Mason who is minus the second finger and has the third finger off at the first knuckle on the right hand."

A profane whose right ankle is stiff, with foot somewhat smaller than the left and turned out, may be made a Mason if the deformity does not prevent him from conforming to the ritual.

A profane, one whose leg is two and one-half inches shorter than the other, is eligible to be made a Mason.

A profane cannot be made a Mason whose left hand is crippled in such a manner as to prevent him from flattening it out."

The address concludes by advocating the erection of a Masonic Home ; and action was taken at this session in accordance.

Returns show 107 Lodges with 5,567 members.

Report on Correspondence is by G. W. Atkinson, P. G. M., Grand Secretary, being his tenth, and fully up to the standard of his preceding reports. He is a vigorous, forcible writer, but as he says : " What I wrote was actuated by a sincere love for Freemasonry, and for its maintenance and advancement among men."

British Columbia for 1895 is included with a three-page review, he finishes with : " We send greetings to our Brethren 'across the line' and wish them great prosperity." We most fraternally reciprocate the sentiment, Bro. Atkinson.

M. W. JOHN M. COLLINS,

Grand Master, Charleston.

R. W. GEO. W. ATKINSON,

Grand Secretary, Wheeling.

—:O:—

Wisconsin

51ST ANNUAL—MILWAUKEE—11TH JUNE, 1895.

Hiram W. Sawyer, Grand Master.

THE Fraternity in this jurisdiction is prosperous, and, generally speaking, in a satisfactory condition. The Grand Master gives the following "three most es-

sential requisits to the high character and best interest of the Fraternity." They are very worthy the careful attention of Lodges.

First. That the examination as to the character and qualifications of candidates for the degrees should be most careful and critical; and should any intimation against ones character, whether before or after ballot, come to the knowledge of the Master, from a Mason or otherwise, he should cause it to be fully investigated, and, if in his judgment, the interest of the Craft at large demand it, stay proceedings. The desire of a Lodge to increase its membership or revenues, and the friendship and wishes of individual members are subordinate to the interest of the Craft. Nor should it be sufficient that the candidate be a 'good fellow' as the word goes; that he has never done anything very bad; that in these days of rush and money making, he is about as good as the average, and is able to look out for No. 1. This is not Masonry. We have use neither for sharpers, nobodies nor moral wrecks. The candidate to be admitted to the Lodge should be able to comprehend, appreciate and, in his daily walk, teach Masonry. Let it be remembered that, although valuable lessons are taught, yet the reputation of the Craft is not made in the Lodge room. The important duties of Masonry are not performed by the Lodge. Masonic duties are personal to every Mason and admonish him to walk uprightly before God and man. Would he be a Mason, he must be a man in all that the term implies. So it is that the character and daily walk of every candidate admitted to the Lodge redounds to the honor or dishonor of the Craft.

Second. The right of any member to cast the black ball, or by objection, to prevent the initiation of any candidate, without question and without having his motives impugned, should be carefully guarded. Any member and any number of members, however friendly to the candidate, or however much they desire his admission to the Lodge, who in any manner try to circumvent or defeat this right, commit a serious offense against Masonry.

Third. That he loves Masonry most who knows it best. That 'a little learning is a dangerous thing' is a truism in Masonry. The inclination is quite too common to hurry candidates through the degrees. Pressure of work, anxiety of candidates to 'get through' and other reasons are urged for rushing to and through the M. M. degree. The result is, that although each degree contains valuable lessons which every Mason should learn and appreciate, the lessons are not thoroughly taught, no deep and lasting impressions are made, and the candidate, though a Master Mason, is left in the best possible condition to overlook his duties and obligations as such.

Harmony and fraternal regard exist between this and other Grand Lodges.

Speaking of the movement on foot by this Grand Lodge to adopt a uniform system as to Masonic Charity, the Grand Master said:

"The objection has been urged that 'to relieve the distressed' is an individual obligation incumbent upon every Mason, and that the tendency of this movement is to shift this obligation from the individual to the Lodges. I believe that no Grand Lodge goes farther in asserting, and

that no individual Masons go farther in assuming and discharging their duty to contribute to the relief of the distressed to the best of their ability than those of Wisconsin. But, in the nature of things, such relief must be principally local. Ability to contribute is frequently exhausted before necessity ceases. The needy brother may be a member of a Lodge in some other Grand Jurisdiction, or he may be a non-affiliated Mason, nevertheless, and in either case, a Mason in good standing in these cases, where and to whom may he or his family look for relief? An unaffiliated Mason is entitled to the same recognition and relief as members of Lodges, except 'Lodge' privileges. It is, therefore, the equal duty of all Masons wherever *he* may be, to contribute to his relief according to their ability.

With an affiliated Mason it is somewhat different; membership in a Lodge carries with it a more direct obligation on the part of the Lodge and its members, to take the initiative and furnish relief. I take it that in a great majority of cases, such relief to members is contributed from Lodge funds, and a material question is, therefore raised, to-wit: Should a member of a Lodge require immediate relief when abroad has he any of these Lodge advantages; if so, should his own Lodge or some other stand the burden?"

Twenty-four Decisions are recorded, mostly all of which were approved by the Committee on Jurisprudence; we produce No. 5, as new to us and for its very logical construction.

"A regularly-chartered Lodge, while its Lodge room was undergoing repair, was allowed to occupy the hall of a sister Lodge, and there conferred three degrees. By an oversight, the charter was not present.

Questions—1. Was the presence of the Charter in the Lodge room necessary to a valid communication?

2. Is work done in the absence of the charter illegal?

Answer. I am not unmindful of the fact that some writers of Masonic Jurisprudence maintain that the literal presence of the *Charter* is indispensable to a valid communication. While I would not knowingly depart from either a landmark or any of the principles of Ancient Craft Masonry, I am unable to see why, under our system, such a rule should be adhered to when the fact that the Lodge is a *chartered* Lodge is well known. In this case the Lodge was regularly chartered and the Charter was in its possession and under its control. Though not within the room when the work was done it could and would have been produced if called for. Such being the case, it would be extremely technical to hold that the proceedings were invalid because the Charter was not present. I therefore held that while the proper place for the Charter is in the Lodge room, its literal presence is not indispensable to a valid communication.

It necessarily follows that work done under such circumstances is not, for that reason, illegal."

Our Grand Representative was not recorded; are we without one?

The Committee on Masonic Relief asked Grand Lodge to adopt the following proposition, which was done accordingly:

"Your Committee ask this Grand Lodge to adopt the following proposition, which is in accordance with the uniform custom of Wisconsin Lodges, and this Grand Lodge. Your committee understand that upon its adoption it becomes practically an agreement between us and all Grand Lodges taking similar action, and we hope and believe that it will eventually become universal.

It is the duty of each Lodge to take care of its own members in distress, wherever they may be. In case of its inability so to do, this duty devolves upon the Grand Lodge from which it holds its Charter. It being understood that in no case is the Lodge furnishing relief and asking reimbursement to go beyond actual present necessity without express authority from the reimbursing body."

The following, to my mind, is a very fair and liberal construction of the "Landmark :"

"The amendment offered by Bro. A. L. Brown, relating to physical qualification being under consideration, Bro. J. S. Block offered the following substitute, which was adopted :

The Edict, as amended by the substitute, to read as follows :

PHYSICAL QUALIFICATION.

The landmark as to physical qualification to be strictly construed. The candidate must be hale, sound, of entire limb, un mutilated, not deformed, dismembered, lame, maimed, stiffened or defective in body, limb or member of the body, that will in anywise prevent or impair a perfect conformity to and performance of all the requirements of the ritual and obligations. If the applicant has any defects on which the question of physical qualification may arise, it shall be referred by the Worshipful Master to the Grand Master for his decision.

This landmark applies only to the making of Masons, not advancement."

Returns show 16,001 members.

The Foreign Correspondence Report does not include our Proceedings, which evidently had not been received.

W. W. PERRY,

Grand Master, Madison.

JOHN W. LAFLIN,

Grand Secretary, Milwaukee.

52nd Annual, Milwaukee, 2nd Tuesday in June, 1896.

Wyoming

21ST ANNUAL—ROCKSPRINGS—10TH SEPTEMBER, 1895.

M. W. Jethro T. Halliday, Grand Master.

NO record of Grand Representatives present. The Grand Master in his address said :

“ Although during the first part of the year past our country was still suffering from the great financial panic and business depression, our Lodges have generally been growing in numbers and are in a satisfactory financial condition. With the return of prosperity throughout the country, and especially in these sections near us which suffered greatly from an unprecedented drouth, and directly affected our State, we can confidentially look forward to a prosperous year among our people, and prosperity within our several Lodges.”

FOREIGN RELATIONS.

I am pleased to inform you that nothing has occurred during my term to mar the peaceful relations heretofore existing between this and sister Grand Jurisdictions. May the same fraternal peace and harmony continue to prevail.”

Decisions reported are of local interest only, and appear to be in harmony with Masonic law and usage.

GRAND REPRESENTATIVE.

“ The Grand Lodge at its last Communication having repealed the third standing Resolution and abolished the Grand Representative system, all representatives of Grand Lodges near our own were notified and requested to resign their positions and return their commissions to the respective Grand Lodges that issued the same. The representatives of our Grand Lodge were also notified of the action of this Grand Lodge in the matter.”

Returns show 16 Lodges with 976 Master Masons, an increase of 60 for the year.

A very good idea and worthy the attention of British Columbia :

PORTRAITS OF PAST GRAND MASTERS.

“ Proceedings each year of many Grand Jurisdictions contain the portraits of the retiring Grand Master, whilst others are working several at a time to catch up, and thus show a continuous line. Bro.

S. A. Bristol has suggested putting in each year two or three of those we have honored, until we reach the point where the then retiring Grand Master will appear alone. Believing the idea a good one, and well worthy consideration at this time, has induced me to thus call attention to what has been and is being generally adopted by Grand Lodges."

The United Grand Lodge of Victoria was extended recognition.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON JURISPRUDENCE ON WISCONSIN PROPOSITION

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of Wyoming:

"Your Committee on Jurisprudence, to whom was referred the Wisconsin proposition, after due examination, find that it does not conflict with Masonic law nor with the Constitution and By-Laws of this Grand Lodge, and respectfully recommend that the Constitution be amended to cover the same. We submit herewith an amendment to be numbered Article 12 in the Constitution, and recommend its adoption.

ARTICLE 12.

It is the duty of each Lodge to take care of its own members in distress, wherever they may be. In the case of its inability so to do, this duty devolves upon the Grand Lodge from which it holds its charter, it being understood that in no case is the Lodge furnishing relief and asking reimbursement, to go beyond actual necessities without express authority from the reimbursing bodies."

"On motion of Bro. E. P. Rohrbaugh, said report was adopted and the foregoing proposed amendment to the Constitution of this Grand Lodge designated as Article 12 was adopted by the necessary two-thirds vote."

The Constitution is appended. I see they "prohibit" the conferring of the Past Master's Degree. "Completed service as a Master of a Lodge shall qualify him to be designated and take rank as a Past Master without any ceremony."

Them's my sentiments.

"Perpetual jurisdiction over rejected material, except as between Lodges, in this Jurisdiction is hereby abolished."

A very good enactment.

Bro. W. L. Knykendall presents his tenth Report on Correspondence, which is as bright, interesting and newsy as ever. British Columbia for 1894 is included.

"Bro. Marcus Wolf is again the Reporter, and presented a very readable report on correspondence. For a second attempt it ranks well.

Regarding Masonic exclusiveness at funerals we extract what he has to say thereon under the head of Tennessee, as follows :—

' We fail to see where Masonry loses any of her prestige by the commingling with other societies at funerals, provided always they are conducted in accordance with "Masonic rites and custom."

We are pleased to find our brother's head level on this subject. Intolerance and the 'better than thou' idea in Masonry are not among the lessons taught, and we are opposed to both as repugnant to Masonic principles and the ordinary dictates of humanity.

Our brother notes the absence of Grand Representatives from Grand Lodge sessions. Why, brother, it was ever thus. Half of them have forgotten they were ever such."

F. CHATTERTON,
Grand Master, Rawlins.

WM. L. KUYKENDALL,
Grand Secretary, Saratoga.



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Addresses of Grand Officers



M. W. ALEX. CHARLESON - - - **Grand Master**
NEW WESTMINSTER, B. C.



V. W. W. J. QUINLAN, - - - **Grand Secretary**
VICTORIA, B. C.



M. W. MARCUS WOLFE, - - - **Com. on Foreign Cor.**
NANAIMO, B. C.



The Twenty-sixth Annual Communication will be held
in the Masonic Temple, in the City of Victoria, commencing
on Thursday, 17th of June, A. D. 1897.

